



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

*It's Closed,
No, It's Open!*

Drewes Meat Market on Last Legs

By Mark Robinson

The sign in the front window of Drewes Meats said it all: "Temporarily Closed. We are trying to reopen."

The sudden demise of the century-old butcher shop at 1706 Church St. in mid-October sent a wave of sadness through generations of loyal customers—and left the shop's four employees in shock.

Now two of those workers—brothers Josh and Isaac Epple—are hoping to revive the store, which has been serving up choice cuts of beef, chicken, lamb, and pork since about 1888.

The Epples say they are reopening the shop and will stay in business through the end of the year—a critical period because of the rush for Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts. But come January, they're worried they might have to close the



In this 1987 photo, Phil Tomasello stands before the Church Street butcher shop he worked in for 40 years. Though he still owns the building, Tomasello sold the business in 1984. Now he's not sure the century-old Drewes will make it to the year 2000. Photo by Joel Abramson

neighborhood institution for good.

The brothers came up with the reopening plan after Drewes' owner, Dave McCarroll, announced on Oct. 15 that the store was going out of business. McCarroll closed the doors that night.

Channel 2's 10 O'Clock News confirmed the shutdown by showing cus-

tomers streaming in to say goodbye and pay their last respects. Then on Oct. 16, the *San Francisco Examiner* ran a front-page story, headlined, "Drewes Meats ends 109-year-run, finally closing its Church Street doors."

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James Lick Kids Barred From Shop On 24th Street

By Anne Sengès

Twenty-fourth Street should be a great place for teenagers to hang out after school. But a recent case of shoplifting at the Just for Fun gift store, involving a student from James Lick Middle School, has ended all the fun.

From now on, kids from James Lick—or any other schools, for that matter—have to stay away from the store, located at 3982 24th St. The shop decided to ban students, unless they're accompanied by a parent, after a rash of shoplifting incidents this fall.

David Eiland, co-owner of Just for Fun, says he is convinced that there is a way to reintegrate the kids, but only if the school shows a willingness to cooperate with him and other 24th Street merchants. He admits, however, that his relationship with James Lick Principal Michael Eddings is not very rosy at this time.

According to Eiland, things were tame on 24th Street and the James Lick students were behaving fairly well until the arrival of the new principal in 1996.

"Last year, things started getting out of control, and this year it was even worse," he said. "We found empty packaging from merchandise in the back of our store, kids were using vulgar language, and they even wrote on the walls with our pens."

Eiland noted that yo-yos and South Park merchandise—the kids' favorites—were the items most often stolen.

When Eiland called the Noe Street school a few times to complain, "the school reaction was that this should be between the merchants, the police, and the student body." According to Eiland, the school administrators seemed to prefer to look the other way.

But it was not until early October, when a James Lick student was caught in the act of shoplifting, that the relationship between Just for Fun and James Lick Middle School really fell apart.

In that episode, Eiland broke his toe while chasing the student around his store. That immediately spurred him to action.

After trying to reach Michael Eddings unsuccessfully, Eiland called five city supervisors and the San Francisco school superintendent to denounce what he considered unacceptable behavior from a school principal.

Eddings and Eiland did end up talking to each other, but according to both parties, the exchange did not go well.

"When I talked to Eiland, he was very angry," Eddings recalled. "He said I was not a good principal and that our kids were acting like animals."

"I replied that I understood, but I told him that I had received reports from some kids that many Noe Valley merchants didn't welcome them in their stores."

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Filmmaker Hears Call of the Wild (Parrots)

By Suzanne Herel

It has all the ingredients of a great movie: exotic characters, a valiant hero, love, triumph, loss. Oh, and parrots. Dozens of parrots.

A flock of wild parrots that lives on Telegraph Hill—and visits Noe Valley in the summer to feast on the area's fruit trees—has snared the interest of neighborhood filmmaker Judy Irving. Now she's trying to raise \$45,000 to turn the story into a half-hour educational film.

Irving, who with her Elizabeth Street-based Independent Documentary Group (IDG) has been making films for more than 20 years, already possessed a love of birds and a cockatiel of her own, Sweetheart. And her award-winning work—including *Dark Circle*, *Nagasaki Journey*, and *Partners on the Land*, shown on KQED-TV this past June—often featured environmental and peace causes.

Add to that a chorus of friends and colleagues urging her to document the work of Mark Bittner, a modern-day St. Francis who has taken the city's wild parrots under his wing, and she had to give in.

"It was essentially that the recommendations achieved critical mass," she says.

In the early years of her filmmaking career, Irving explored the wilderness of Alaska and its caribou, geese, and salmon. "I thought you had to go that far to find the deepest wilderness experience. Now I'm realizing that for a long time I haven't looked around my own neighborhood."

She hopes her new film, dubbed *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, will open viewers' eyes to the wild aspects of our urban landscape. "You really can contact wild nature right here in the city—all you have to do is open your eyes and look."



"The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" will feature Cherry-Head Conures like this one, and a rival band of Canary-Wings, who left North Beach to nest in the palm trees along Dolores Street. Photo courtesy Mark Bittner

Irving began taking test shots at the end of October and is turning up the heat on fundraising over the next couple of months. Besides describing the fate of the flock—which numbers between 45 and 50 birds—the movie will follow individual birds, telling the story of their personalities, rivalries, and habits. It will also draw on "Mark's astonishing knowledge of these birds, most of whom he has studied and named," she says.

There actually are two flocks of wild parrots that live year-round in San Francisco. One, featured in Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City*, consists of a species called Canary-Wing Parakeets. These rel-

atively small birds lived on Telegraph Hill in the '70s, but were later booted out by the larger parrots that fly there now, the Cherry-Head Conures.

The colorful Canary-Wings currently make their home in the palm trees near the corner of Dolores and 24th streets. Irving is looking for people who can provide information on these birds' habits. She may include them in the documentary as well.

Up to now, her main source has been Bittner, a self-taught expert who lives in a cottage on the Greenwich steps leading up to Coit Tower. According to Bittner, the Telegraph Hill flock of conures grew from wild-caught parrots native to Ecuador and Peru that were either let loose or escaped sometime in the 1980s.

He has fed the birds, tracked their lives, and cared for the sick members of the flock for the past five years. (He even maintains a web site about his feathered friends: www.wildparrots.com.)

"It took about six months for them to start to trust me," Bittner recalled on a recent afternoon, parrots perched on his arm and shoulder and eating out of his hand. The birds' green bodies and red-masked faces glowed vibrantly in the sun, and their chatter threatened to drown out conversation.

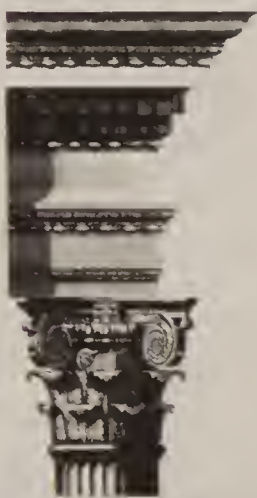
He hopes Irving's half-hour film will increase awareness about the parrots, which at this time have no legal protection. Ironically, some groups that support animal rights also want to eradicate non-native species. "If the birds can become some kind of icon for the city—flying cable cars, so to speak, something whose destruction would be wildly unpopular—that will increase their chance of surviving," he says.

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How wide-angle is my valley. Of the many views available to Noe Valley residents and visitors, this one from the top of Hill Street is especially pleasing. But the camera can smooth and soften steep descents, so do bring footwear with traction and have your brakes checked, too.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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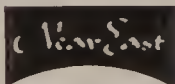
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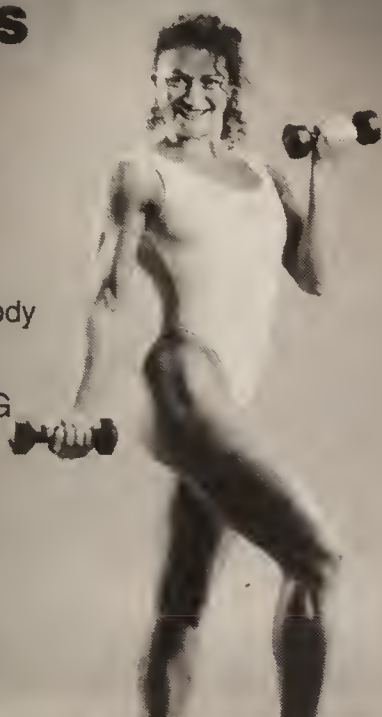
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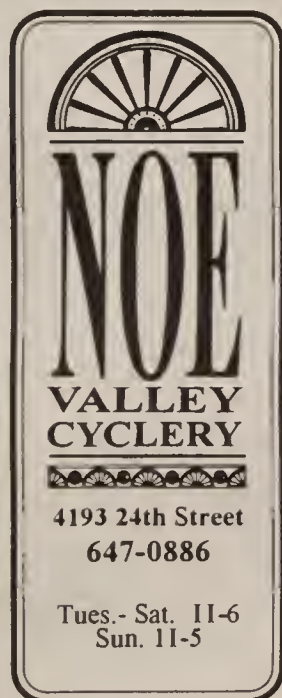
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LETTERS 32¢

Take a Fresh Look at James Lick Editor:

I appreciated Addie Lanier's piece on the neighborhood elementary schools, and totally agree ["Your Neighborhood Public School: Ugly Duckling or Fledgling Swan?" October 1998 *Voice*].

However, don't forget we also have James Lick Middle School, for grades 6 to 8, right in the heart of Noe Valley. Lick is a small public school with dedicated teachers, an ethnically diverse student body, great extracurricular activities, and a beautiful physical facility.

We invite all parents with fifth-graders to take a tour of Lick and check it out for middle school. Call the office at 695-5675.

The staff will be happy to show you around or put you in touch with me or other parents. I am the PTA president this year and have lived in the Noe/Eureka neighborhood for many years.

You also might want to log on to the school's web site, which is really impressive. The address is www.sfsud.k12.ca.us/schwww/sch634/jlms.html.

Laurel Turner
Collingwood Street

Home Is in Your Heart

Editor:

Thank you for the wonderful Last Page essay in the October 1998 *Voice* ["4087 25th Street," by Jane Underwood]. I am living in Noe, renting a small one-bedroom flat on Homestead near 25th, expecting my first child on Oct. 24.

I will be birthing at home with a wonderful midwife. I have often wondered how it will feel to move away from the home in which I give birth, but I know that change is inevitable.

Jane's story reminded me that our memories exist in our hearts and minds, not in buildings.

Colleen Boyd
Homestead Street

Ban on Cafes Could Backfire

Editor:

The proposed permanent ban on new coffee shops and restaurants in Noe Valley has been touted as a way to ensure that neighborhood stores provide services primarily of use to local residents. Having attended the July hearing at the Board of Supervisors on this legislation, I can attest to the total lack of objective data to support this strategy. Readers of the *Voice* may be surprised by three major points that emerged from this discussion:

1. The number of restaurants and cafes in Noe Valley has remained stable for the past 10 years, with only a net increase of 1 since 1988. About 28 percent of 24th Street's businesses have been classified as restaurants, cafes, or vendors of prepared food. This is slightly higher than the 20 percent proposed as an ideal value by the San Francisco Planning Department. Still, there is little evidence to indicate that the neighborhood is in danger of being overrun by food vendors.

2. There is no evidence that this legislation will achieve its goals. Despite limiting restaurants in some San Francisco neighborhoods since the early 1980s, the Planning Department could not provide data demonstrating that such a policy maintained the commercial balance sought by its advocates.

3. This legislation will not prevent the loss of current retailers or the further entry of retail chains. High rents are the principal reason why many independent retailers leave Noe Valley, only to be replaced by well-financed retail chains. The Board of Supervisors cannot reverse this process, since it can neither legislate rent control for commercial

properties, nor can it specifically prescribe renting to large retail enterprises. Thus, limiting restaurants and coffeehouses (which are nearly always small, independent businesses) will only create more space for large retail chains.

In reality, it is far more likely that limiting coffee and food purveyors will actually degrade the quality of life in the neighborhood. Cafes in particular enhance urban life, by serving as gathering spots for local residents. Much of the vitality we associate with European cities stems directly from their vibrant cafe life. Indeed, many American urban planners have cited cafes as a key element for revitalizing urban centers. For Noe Valley residents, coffeehouses are the equivalent of a town square, a meeting place for individuals and families, a place to socialize and develop a sense of community.

Much of the cohesiveness of the neighborhood is generated by the interactions that take place in these establishments. To limit them artificially would only deaden the neighborhood. Evidence of this is found on Sacramento Street in Presidio Heights, where similar legislation turned a once vibrant area into a depopulated zone of antique shops and high-end boutiques.

For many small retailers, the ability to sell food and drink has been a valuable adjunct for their businesses. Booksellers often find that having a small cafe within their store entices customers to linger longer, and thus purchase more items.

These food-related sales are often key to the survival of independent merchants,

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Meat Market Clinging to Life

Continued from Page 1

But at the same time the paper was laying Drewes to rest, the employees were tacking up their "Temporarily Closed" sign in the window. Eleven days later, the Epples were skinning and pounding chicken, and declaring the shop back in business.

Still, Drewes' survival is far from assured. The market has been losing money for years, Josh Epple says. In fact, the shop started noticing a decline in business in 1991, during the filming of *Sister Act* at St. Paul's.

Things got worse a couple of years ago, when Muni installed ramps and median strips along the J-Church streetcar line, reducing parking in the area. Recent construction along Church Street — of St. Paul's new elementary school, and a cafe next to Drewes — also hurt business. The trend toward vegetarianism didn't help either. And McCarroll began suffering from tendonitis in his elbow, which made it difficult for him to work as a butcher.

To make ends meet, McCarroll struck up a partnership with Cecilia de Leon, the owner of Stellings Market, a Mom and Pop store located two doors away. In January, de Leon moved Stellings' groceries, sundries, and video sales into half of Drewes' space. It was a way to save on rent and utilities and increase foot traffic in both stores. (Stellings' vacated storefront at Church and 29th streets now houses a new restaurant, Regent Thai.)

The store owners hoped that Stellings' groceries and Drewes' famed meats — all range-fed and free-range — would make a perfect match. Unfortunately, the small-scale synergy never really developed, says de Leon.



Many neighborhood residents watched Drewes Meats, a 109-year-old fixture on Church Street, close for good on Oct. 15. Then a few days later, they saw signs that the store was reopening. Photo by Jack Tipple

But de Leon hopes to re-energize both businesses by helping to back the Epples — who have dubbed themselves "the Drewes Brothers."

Meanwhile, McCarroll has dropped out of sight. Neither de Leon nor the Epples have talked with him. The telephone at his South San Francisco home has been changed to an unlisted number.

Though an ownership dispute may be brewing, Josh Epple, 26, still believes the butcher shop can be profitable, especially once the construction of a 36-unit condo complex in St. Paul's old high school building on 29th Street is completed.

"We hope this will be a good jump-start for the business," says Epple, who grew up in the neighborhood and began working at Drewes at 17. His brother Isaac, 24, joined the crew a few years later. "There is so much tradition here," says Josh. "The loyal customers are fantastic."

Drewes was (and is) an old-fashioned place where the butchers know you by

name — and by your order — agrees Kevin Duffy, a Day Street resident. "It's an institution," Duffy says. "People kind of took it for granted."

Longtime customers who no longer live in the neighborhood have been known to drive two to three hours to come back to Drewes and pick up their special holiday turkey or ham.

"The holidays are huge," Epple says. "People love the Willie Bird turkeys we sell. You can't ruin them."

But the ultimate fate of the store rests with the man who owns the building, Phil Tomasello, who worked as a butcher at Drewes for 40 years and has owned the building since 1959. He sold the business to McCarroll's father in 1984. McCarroll began running it himself in 1989.

Tomasello has been flooded with inquiries about leasing the space, which sits along a street where commercial real estate has become increasingly valuable in recent years.

Tomasello, 77, says he'd like to see Drewes survive. "I think we just need to let things cool off a little," he says. "We're going to take it slow and try to do the right thing."

However, he doubts whether the arrangement with Stellings Market and the Epple brothers will last beyond the end of December, when the Stellings lease expires. He foresees a group of more experienced butchers taking over the space — or perhaps selling the building altogether.

Josh Epple hopes Tomasello will allow him and his brother to stay permanently. In the meantime, he'll continue to trim the fat and do all the extras for Drewes' patrons.

During the week or so the store was shut down, Josh, who also works in the meat department of the Real Foods grocery in the Marina, delivered meat to some of his old Drewes customers.

"I still want to supply them," he says. "They've come to expect it." □

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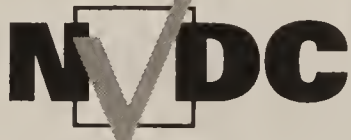
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Yes on F

Continue Stadium Admission Tax

NO RECOMMENDATION ON G

Yes on H

Continue Hotel Tax Surcharge

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Continued from Page 4

both because they increase customer traffic and because they generate high profit margins. We should be encouraging such creative strategies for the survival of these merchants, not accelerating their demise by limiting their retail options.

For all these reasons, the proposed ban is likely to be destructive of the neighborhood character its advocates seek to preserve. Rather than making arbitrary and arrogant pronouncements as to what the neighborhood needs (e.g., the recent proposed Extreme Pizza interdiction by the Friends of Noe Valley), citizen groups should work with local merchants to determine what economic strategies might be effective in preserving the current commercial balance of the neighborhood.

Such efforts alone are unlikely to preserve the distinctive character of the Noe Valley commercial district. If our independent merchants are to survive, Noe residents must be willing to forgo mass retailers like Costco, opting instead to shop locally. Without such a conscious commitment to the neighborhood, it is inevitable that 24th Street will eventually evolve into an anonymous corridor of chain stores, indistinguishable from scores of other commercial districts or malls.

Although we will rant indignantly about the evils of multinational corporations, in reality we will only have ourselves to blame for these events.

P. M. Sullam
26th Street

Plaudits for Poets

Editor:

Thank you for giving poetry a place in your informative, educational newspaper ["Poets and Plumbers Convene at Keane's," September 1998 *Voice*].

And hats (and hard-hats) off to Kathryn Guta for the excellent reporting, and to Beverly Tharp for the great photography. Camincha Benvenuto

Editor's Note: Camincha Benvenuto lives in Pacifica, and is listed in the Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers.

You Call This Police Protection?

Editor:

No navy, no army, ah, but we do have a police force. I would know, having been victimized recently. In August, I was apprehended outside a telephone booth on 24th Street at Church in front of the donut shop at approximately 4:45 in the afternoon. Three officers threw me to the ground on Jersey Street, causing my knees to be scraped. They also made me stay in jail for two nights until a hearing.

When first approached by a female officer, I was unarmed. She did not read me my rights or discuss anything, just moved toward me ready to put on handcuffs. So I pushed her and ran in self-defense, only to be thrown to the ground.

During my stay in a holding cell, the police managed to conjure up a police report and unrelated charges, which have had me in a courtroom twice already. I am a female, a law-abiding taxpayer, and a citizen with no police record, and have lost wages because of this incident.

Do I need to be constantly escorted by a bodyguard? And how are we doing among the real criminals running free?

Name withheld by request
Second-generation San Franciscan

Continued on Page 8

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Just for Fun Bans Students

Continued from Page 1

Some African-American and Latino kids said that as soon as they walked in the stores, they were followed," Eddings said.

Eiland was equally disturbed by the conversation, and said he felt that Eddings had accused him of being a racist. "Over the past 11 years, we have had blacks and Latinos working in the store, and we are not prejudiced against any person or kid because of their race, their religion, or their nationality," he maintains. "But right now, we are prejudiced against the entire student body of James Lick because of the behavior of a few—as unfair as that may sound."

The issue of racism is especially touchy at James Lick, where 43 percent of the 500 students are classified as Latino and 30 percent African-American. Most of the kids, who fall within the 11 to 13 age bracket (sixth to eighth grade), live outside the neighborhood. And many feel ostracized in Noe Valley, a mostly white, upscale neighborhood.

Eiland says several longtime Noe Valley residents have told him they try to steer clear of James Lick School whenever students are around. They're wary of the teens' reputation.

But Eddings thinks James Lick is an easy mark. "Our kids are often blamed. And I think part of it is because we are a public school," he said. "People say they use vulgar language. They just talk like 13-year-old kids who think it is cool to talk that way when Mom, Dad, or the teacher is not around."

Still, ever since the Just for Fun episode, James Lick has forbidden its students to hang out on 24th Street. "Our se-

curity guy walks with the kids after school and makes sure they catch their buses instead of hanging out in the stores. He controls one side, and I control the other," said Eddings, who has been monitoring the kids every day to prevent a repeat of the shoplifting incident.

Meanwhile, Bob Roddick, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, said he had not heard any recent complaints from store owners, other than the one from Just for Fun.

But according to Eiland, the Walgreens on Castro Street, a block and a half from the school, has also been having problems. Last month Walgreens' store manager agreed to cosign a letter asking the Merchants Association to take some steps to deal with the kids, Eiland said.

Once the shop owners confer, "I want to have a meeting with all the players involved. We could try to find ways to make the kids welcome by funding some of the school's projects," said Eiland. "Maybe social behavior should be added to the curriculum. One idea could be to have the kids plant some trees in the neighborhood, or to have an after-school program monitored by the parents," he suggested.

In September of 1991, a similar clash between students and local merchants occurred. At that time, a James Lick teacher came up with a plan to ask 24th Street shopkeepers to allow some of the students to work in their stores during the holiday season. Twelve merchants agreed to participate in the program, and Noe Valley for a short while became a friendlier place for the kids.

A couple of years ago, Just for Fun also let some students work in the store. "Quite honestly, I am not sure that is the best solution," said Eiland. "The kids are too young to count money, too young to open the store. But for some of them, it was an opportunity to see how a business works."

For once, Eddings shared Eiland's feel-

ings. "That would be great for high school kids, but I think our students are not mature enough," Eddings said.

He also admitted that Eiland had "brought up some good ideas."

But in mid-October Michael Eddings was not yet ready to meet with the 24th Street merchants. He said he'd wait until their anger died down. □

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LETTERS 32¢

Continued from Page 6

Unfair Depiction of Eviction

Editor:

It is time to stop accusing property owners of unlawful evictions, when in most cases all that an owner wants is the right to move in to their own home in a peaceful and fair way.

I am the owner of the 23rd Street property that Ms. Yovanopoulos was accusing of an unfair eviction of her friends Terry and Martha in her letter to the editor in the October Voice.

I was quite amused and also very disappointed to see how Ms. Yovanopoulos

chose to lie and use false information about the eviction in what appeared to me to be an effort on her part to create more separation between property owners and tenants, not to mention to add fuel to the hysteria over this issue. So I would like to set the record straight and present the true facts for Noe Valley residents.

I had no choice but to evict Terry and Martha from my 23rd Street property because my wife and I had just had a baby and had chosen to stop renting our house in Marin County in order to move into our own property on 23rd Street. Neither of us were working at the time, and we felt that moving into a small apartment would provide us with an opportunity to reduce our expenses and pay for our daughter's enormous hospital bills.

Prior to starting the eviction proceedings, we offered Terry and Martha sufficient time to find a place and move. However, after a few months had passed, they still were not willing to move, and because we were in a desperate financial and emotional position, as our baby was recovering from severe birth trauma, we had no choice but to begin evicting Terry and Martha.

From the beginning we were considerate, empathetic, and very fair toward them. Neither Terry nor Martha was elderly. Both had jobs and appeared to be in good health. Everything in our eviction was lawful and we acted in good faith despite their efforts to drag us through legal hell just because we wanted our baby to grow up in her own home. They ended up living rent-free in our property for four months, and received several thousand dollars to move.

Also, contrary to Ms. Yovanopoulos' claims, we are not planning to move out and convert our home to a condo.

So enough is enough! Not all owner move-in evictions are motivated by greed or bad faith. Some, like ours, may occur out of sheer necessity. Next time tenant advocates like Ms. Yovanopoulos choose to use others as an example, they should check their facts first. There may be another side to the story.

Koorosh Ostowari
23rd Street

Aw, Go Climb Another Hill

Editor:

A couple of Voice readers have called to my attention an error in my "Go Climb a Hill" story in the September issue.

I wrote that the brick circle in the intersection of 28th and Diamond was the outline of an old cable car turnaround, when it is more likely the marker for an underground reservoir (although the S.F. Water Department couldn't confirm that).

The Voice's fact checker on that story must have been napping! (Oops—I was the fact checker on that story.)

Mea culpa.

Jim Christie
Voice Last Page Editor

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Wild Parrots to Star in Film

Continued from Page 1

Bittner himself won't be around much longer to babysit the birds. In six months, the owners of his cottage plan to gut the house to do a much-needed renovation. He'll have to move, taking with him only a few sick parrots and leaving the rest of the flock to survive on its own.

He has high hopes for their continued existence, however. In his view, the sunflower seeds he gives them amount only to junk food, and the birds have had five years to learn the area and the food it harbors. Besides, he says, "In the long run, it's best for them if they don't have someone who is a crutch. And the flock should be only as big as whatever the area can support."

Still, there's a good chance his birds will win new patrons—people who, like

Bittner, can't resist them. "The whole thing started by accident—I was trying to feed the scrub jays," he says. But the parrots quickly charmed him. "They're so attractive because they're such an oddity. They're colorful and noisy, and they're little clowns—they like to hang upside down a lot. As I really got closer to them, what was intriguing to me was their eyes. You can tell what they're thinking."

Irving expects to complete the film by next summer or fall, when she'll start shopping it around to public television and other educational venues. Those interested in helping to fund *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* can send a tax-deductible contribution to IDG Films, 394 Elizabeth St., San Francisco, 94114.

Irving says donors who send more than \$500 will be listed in the film's credits. Those who contribute \$1,000 will also get a tape of the documentary signed by her and Bittner, plus an invitation to the premiere. If you'd like a copy of the full proposal, give Irving a call at 824-5822. □

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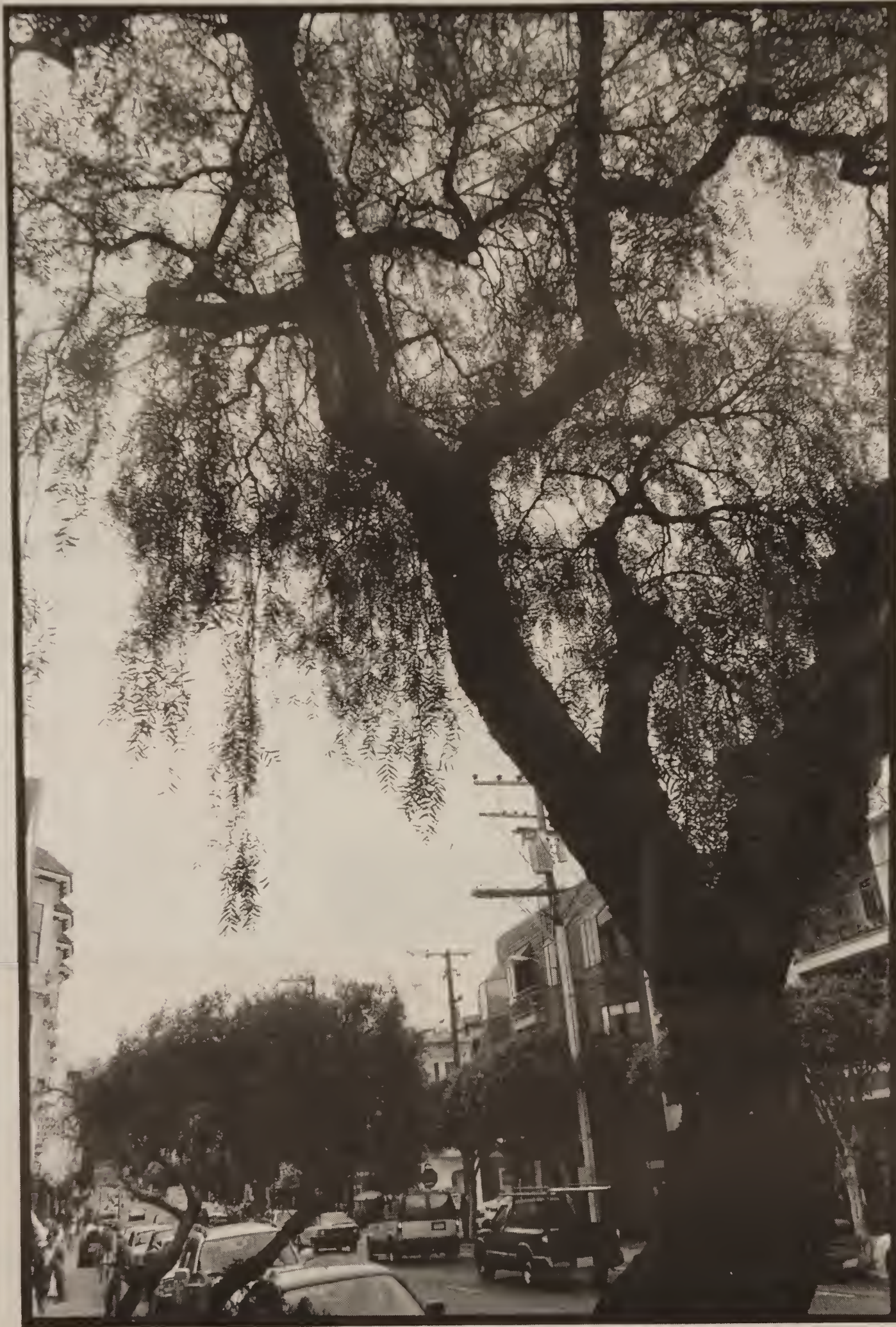
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Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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It's a Wrap for WrapWorks

La Salsa Burrito Chain To Open in Wraps' Space

By Pat Rose

Say goodbye to "Ken and Barbecue" and "Coat and Thai Chicken," those designer wraps with the pun-laden names served up by WrapWorks on 24th Street.

Chevy's Restaurants Inc., the national chain that owns WrapWorks, has shut down four of its five San Francisco stores, including the 24th Street tortilla parlor, which opened less than a year and a half ago. (The chain will keep its Big City Wraps store in Embarcadero Center, but has closed the WrapWorks outlets on Union, Fillmore, and Castro streets.)

In September, Chevy's sold the local WrapWorks leases to La Salsa, a burrito chain based in Los Angeles. The 24th Street store, located a half block from Castro, is currently under construction while La Salsa revamps the interior.

According to Paul Banbury, Chevy's Vice President of New Concepts, the WrapWorks chain was never profitable in the Bay Area.

"The sales just weren't there," said Banbury. "The wrap business was so well developed, even overdeveloped, in this part of the country, there were too many players," he said, citing World Wraps as a major competitor.

The wrap "trend" is over in California, while in other parts of the country like Washington, D.C., the idea is still a novelty, Banbury told the *Voice*. "We have

three WrapWorks in D.C. that are working well. The trend just hasn't hit D.C. like it already has here."

Steven Roth, who's in charge of real estate and construction for La Salsa, said the burrito chain had been well received in other parts of the Bay Area, including San Bruno, Burlingame, San Mateo, and Oakland.

"We're excited to be going into San Francisco," said Roth. "We offer a classic-style Mexican menu with all fresh food and vegetarian items as well."

La Salsa will serve burritos, tacos, quesadillas, and nachos seven days a week. Hours of operation will be from 11 a.m. until 9 or 10 at night.

Roth said he expected the new La Salsa on 24th Street to open its doors at the end of October or first of November. □

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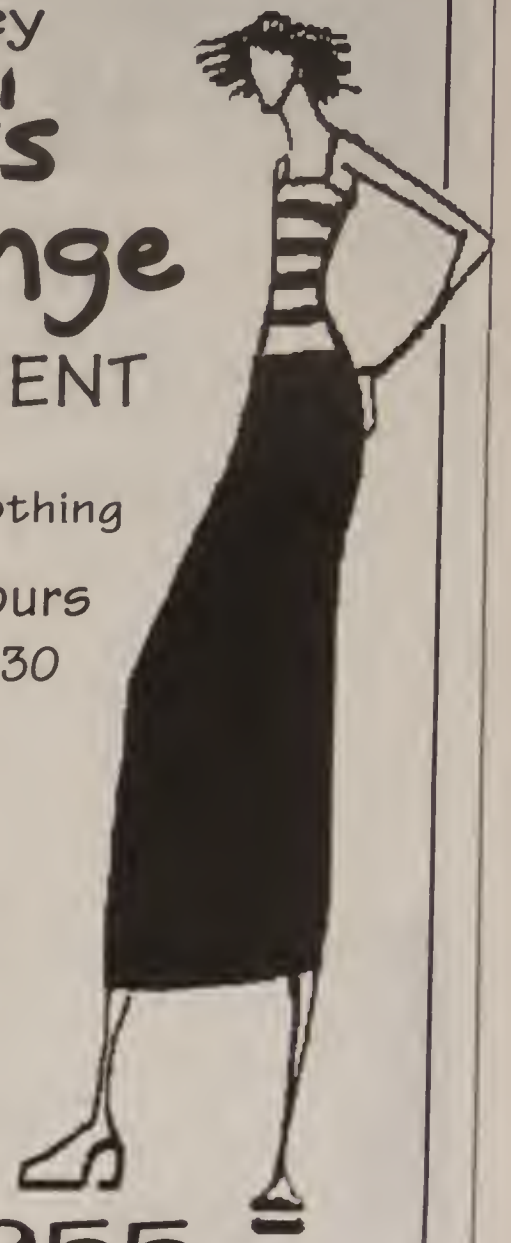
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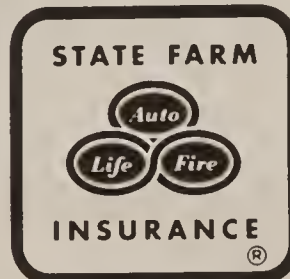
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POLICE BEAT

What Was She Thinking?

By Officer Lois Perillo

In early August, a 45-year-old Noe Street resident was taken into custody after she vandalized a local bar, punched two bar patrons, and assaulted a police officer. This would be old news, except for the fact that the suspect wrote a letter to the editor, accusing the police of harassment (see this month's Letters section).

According to witnesses, the incident started out like this: At 3:45 p.m. on Aug. 11, a bartender at Noe's called police to report a violent woman who was destroying property inside the bar. When Officer Barbara Pinelli arrived, she found that the woman had left the bar and was standing in front of Happy Donuts at 24th and Church.

As the officer approached, the suspect allegedly said, "F— you, bitch. I ain't going with you," and began walking west on 24th Street.

Despite Officer Pinelli's order to stop, the suspect refused to comply and doubled back on 24th Street. Officer Pinelli took hold of the woman, who resisted and swung at the officer, who ducked. The suspect pulled away and then ran south on Church and west on Jersey Street. The suspect continued to resist and punched Officer Pinelli twice in her face, breaking her glasses, bruising her eye, and cutting her cheek.

A 40-year-old witness to the assault then assisted Officer Pinelli in handcuffing the suspect, who was taken to Mission Station by other police officers while Officer Pinelli investigated the bar incident.

The bartender told Officer Pinelli that the woman had been drinking with a male companion at Noe's since 12:30 p.m. When her companion left, the suspect demanded that other male patrons buy her drinks. The bartender informed the suspect that her behavior was unacceptable and directed her to leave. According to the bartender, the woman then became enraged and yelled, "I am a member of the John Birch Society. Go back to your own country!" and challenged the bartender to a fight.

After the bartender called police, the suspect's anger increased, and she broke out a glass window pane and destroyed a ceramic pot that held a plant. The bartender made a second call to police. The suspect then punched an unidentified male patron in the face and a 39-year-old male in the face before exiting the bar and crossing to the donut shop, where Officer Pinelli first came into contact with her.

The woman was taken to County Jail and charged with two counts of vandalism: felony assault on an officer and providing false identification. Both male bar patrons declined to press charges, as did Wayne Basso, owner of Noe's.

The district attorney rebooked the suspect on misdemeanor assault of an officer and providing false identification. She spent several days in jail, then was released on her own recognizance. Since then, she has continued to make timely appearances in court.

Officer Pinelli's face has healed, and she sends her thanks to the man who lent her a hand.

Stolen Money and Motorcycle

In September there were three reported robberies within my Noe Valley beat. As

I reported in last month's column, the Bank of America branch at Castro and 24th was robbed Sept. 15. Inspector Tom Horan of the Robbery Detail is investigating that case.

Then on Sept. 22 at 3:10 p.m., a 38-year-old man was the target of a carjacking after he parked his motorcycle on the 800 block of Diamond Street. A male suspect in his 20s approached the driver from behind and pushed a hard object into his back. The driver turned to see a gun pointed at him by the suspect, who said, "Give me your bike!" The driver complied, and the suspect fled south on Diamond, riding the man's 1998 red Honda VFR/RS motorcycle.

In the third incident, which happened on Sept. 30 at about 9:15 p.m., a 42-year-old man working at Modern Market at Church and 26th streets was robbed at gunpoint by a man in his 20s. The robber fled east on 26th Street in a 1985 tan van driven by another man who was with a 10-year-old boy.

Use a Knife, Lose Your Car

On Sept. 12 at 2:41 p.m., a 25-year-old man who had parked his car on the sidewalk in the 200 block of Chattanooga Street brandished a knife at a man who had asked him to move it.

When Officer Angel Lozano responded to the scene, the suspect had already left in his brown Ford Mustang, which was later found by Ingleside District Police and towed from the 300 block of Whitney Street.

A hold was placed on the car, forcing the owner to contact the police before the car could be released.

Next Time Turn Down the Music

On Sept. 4 at 10:30 a.m., a 30-year-old man and resident of the 200 block of Jersey Street was cited for battery after he assaulted his 44-year-old neighbor, who had asked him to lower the sound level of his stereo.

The suspect made his Oct. 5 court appearance, and the charge was dismissed.

Tips from Your Neighbors

Jennifer of Jersey Street alerts you to the possibility of mail-tampering. Secure those mailboxes. Yvette from Dolores Street says beware of con artists who contact you via the phone. Don't give out any personal information.

Meanwhile, Kate of Elizabeth Street warns you to watch out for porch thieves—mark your outside furniture and pots with your driver's license number, attach tables and benches to fixed objects, and use lights that are triggered by motion.

Craig of Chattanooga Street gives you a heads-up about burglars casing your street: Be obvious when noticing these potential bad guys or gals. Let them know that you see them (e.g., turn on a porch light, open a door). Alert your neighbors and call the police (553-0123) to report a suspicious person.

Burglar Number Two Nabbed

A lieutenant sergeant and two officers from Mission Station went undercover and nabbed a burglar suspected of committing a string of commercial burglaries in the Castro.

Although convicted burglar Larry Kraft, aka the Termite, was arrested in September, not all the Noe Valley commercial burglaries stopped, and store burglaries in neighboring Eureka Valley and the Castro soared.

To stem the burgs, Sergeant Bob Barnes extensively tracked the break-ins, and Mission Station Captain Gregory Suhr directed plainclothes police to saturate the area.

On Oct. 1 at 5:19 a.m., Lieutenant Kevin Cashman, Sergeant Barnes, and Officers Steve Mooney and Dorian Hopkins were working undercover within the target area

when a man on his way to work saw the suspect in a doorway of a liquor store, holding a pry tool. The man notified a BART station agent, who called police.

A few minutes later, James Michael Flannagan, 39, was taken into custody on the 700 block of 14th Street at Market. After an investigation, he was charged with three felonies and a parole violation.

Flannagan's fingerprints were submitted to police crime scene investigators for a comparison to those prints taken from other burglary sites. As of this writing, Flannagan's prints had been matched to two additional burglaries.

My Continuing Saga

At the end of a pretrial hearing on Oct. 8 in Alameda County Municipal Court—during which I testified for 2½ hours—the judge ordered the woman who assaulted me on June 10 to stand trial in Superior Court.

Although I've been on the stand many times before in my 14 years of policing, my past experience did not truly prepare me to testify as the victim of a violent crime.

This time (unlike my San Francisco court experiences), I entered a courtroom assigned solely to my case. The defendant sat to the left of her attorney and was closest to the witness box. The deputy district attorney was to the right of the judge. My partner Heather, along with our friends Angela, MaryJane, and Maran of Victim Witness Assistance, sat behind the DA.

Since I was the only witness, I was close to the defendant during most of the hearing. However, I chose not to look at her except on two occasions, once when I was called to identify her to the court and again when her attorney asked that I describe her current hairstyle. When I looked, she averted her eyes from mine.

At times she would write something on her pad and her attorney would ask me a question like, "Did you demand money from the defendant?" As I answered no, I thought, What was that all about? And so it went.

When the judge gaveled the proceedings to a close, my friends and I left the courtroom and went out in the hallway to talk. The defendant remained with her attorney for a while, then exited, passing us in the hall.

Next stop for the defendant is a series of pretrial conferences in Superior Court, where plea bargains may be discussed. It's just like on TV's *Law & Order*.

We'll see what happens. Till then, be safe and continue to watch out for one another. I'll see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo patrols the northern half of Noe Valley—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez Street—often by bicycle. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.

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Noe Valley Bakery's Rising Success

By Dodie Hamblen

The Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company has always exceeded its owners' expectations.

"The day we opened, we sold out of everything by 1 p.m.," says Mary Gassen, who owns the business with husband and master baker Michael Gassen.

But four years later, the bakery is expanding so fast, it's ready to burst into the national spotlight.

Customers are spilling out of its doors on 24th Street. (The shop is sandwiched between Wooden Heel Shoe Repair and the Noe Valley Post Office.) Dozens of upscale restaurants and markets now carry Noe Valley Bakery pastries and breads. And the store just landed a coveted spot in a new food catalog put out by Williams-Sonoma.

"Somehow we've condensed our five-year plan into three and a half," says Gassen, 37. "Our success has been rare and lucky. We've been so blessed, we've really been humbled by the experience."

She and Michael, who have lived on 28th Street for the past two years, met in 1992 while working at Il Fornaio, where Michael was a baker and Mary a managing partner. They bought the Noe Valley Bakery in the fall of 1994, just three days before they got married.

"There was a need here," recalls Gassen. "People in Noe Valley were hungry. Michael and I had dreamed of living and working in Noe Valley, and when this location became available, it was just a miracle."

From the start, the Gassens' goal was to be a high-quality bakery with an emphasis on friendly, neighborhood service. "Service to our customers is important. We have strong feelings about quality," says Gassen.

The couple also have a strong work ethic. "I'd have to say the secret of our success is my husband Michael, who has an incredible talent as a baker. He has a gift and a passion for what he does. He works 75 hours a week," Gassen says. In fact, Michael Gassen, 35, was on the run so much last month, the *Voice* couldn't catch up with him for an interview.

Meanwhile, his Noe Valley customers were scarfing up his breads, pies, cakes, and cookies as fast as he could make them. "Fig bread is our signature bread," Gassen points out. But the chocolate-cherry and apricot-ginger breads also sell well, priced at \$4.50 a loaf.

"Blueberry pecan scones are our most popular breakfast pastry, and cakes are very popular too," adds store manager Pilar Deer.

Gassen reports that the Noe Valley store did \$1 million in business last year.

These days, moms pushing baby strollers often have trouble getting past the shop without popping in for a chocolate chip cookie (\$1), or to pick up a baguette for dinner (\$1.50). Noe Valley Bakery's focaccia (\$3) even shows up at children's parties in Douglass Park — along with the flower-iced birthday cake, of course (\$20 and up).

Naturally, the holiday season is the store's busiest time of year. Starting in October, iced pumpkin cookies (50 cents) are in constant demand. Pumpkin and pecan pies (\$12.50) are favorites at Thanksgiving, and tins of cookies (\$24) are a big hit at Christmas. The traditional yule log comes in either mocha or hazelnut (\$30). All are available by special order.

Lots of neighborhood folks relied on Noe Valley Bakery for holiday goodies



Employees at the Noe Valley Bakery, including assistant manager Georgia Gross and Winnie Runnels (right), often have to jockey for position to fill orders for the store's signature fig bread—and other holiday treats.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

last year, Gassen says. The store did \$10,000 in business on Christmas Eve alone. But the bakery's popularity extends way beyond Noe Valley.

During its first year of operation, the Noe Valley Bakery and Bread Company began selling its breads wholesale to grocery stores around the city. Among the markets that carry them are Bryan's, Tower Market, Falletti Foods, the Real Food Company in Cow Hollow and on Russian Hill, and Rainbow Grocery in the South of Market area. Tourists and other shoppers can also pick up Noe Valley breads, cookies, and pastries on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesdays at the Farmers Market at Ferry Plaza.

The loaves also show up at some of the city's classiest restaurants. Stars, the Hyde Street Bistro, Palio d'Asti, and Jardinière all serve Noe Valley Bakery bread.

Then in the spring, the national Williams-Sonoma chain called to ask if it could feature the bakery's fig bread in the inaugural September issue of *Williams-Sonoma Food*. It seems owner Chuck Williams had tried a slice somewhere, and liked it so well he wanted his catalog to offer it.

To meet the growing demand, last January the Gassens opened a 6,000-square-foot bakery on Shafter Avenue just off Bayshore Boulevard. Cakes, pies, and special-order cakes are still baked at the 24th Street location, but breads, pastries, and cookies are now baked at the new facility.

Mary and Michael Gassen are thrilled that the business is doing so well, and don't feel that their quick rise will affect the quality of their bakery's service and product. "For one thing, we have a staff of really talented employees and bakers," Mary Gassen says. She and her husband employ 50 people at their two locations.

Asked if they planned to open retail stores in other neighborhoods, Gassen emphatically says, "No. We want to do what we do well. We live a 10-minute walk from the store and a short bike ride from the bakery. This is where we want to be."

With a 14-month-old daughter and a baby due in April, they are happy to have realized their dream of working, living, and raising a family in Noe Valley, she says.

So how do they juggle career and children? "Well, basically, for the short term, we're a little nuts!" □

If you're interested in placing an order for Thanksgiving or Christmas, call the store at 550-1405. Or ask to be put on Noe Valley Bakery's holiday mailing list.

FIG BREAD

courtesy of the

Noe Valley Bakery & Bread Co.

Mary and Michael Gassen, who own the Noe Valley Bakery on 24th Street, are pleased to share their popular fig bread recipe with their Noe Valley neighbors. They say it makes a great holiday gift. This recipe yields four 1-pound, 5-ounce loaves.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp. active dry yeast
- 3 1/3 cups warm water
- 1 lb., 11 oz. dried Black Mission figs, stemmed and halved (Calimyrna or Adriatic figs are acceptable substitutes)
- 7 1/2 cups bread flour
- 4 1/2 tsp. salt (preferably sea salt, finely ground)
- 4 tbsp. olive oil (preferably extra-virgin)

- In a small bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warm water and set aside.
- Place the figs in a large stainless steel or plastic mixing bowl. Add the flour, salt, and olive oil and toss ingredients together to roughly combine them.
- When the yeast mixture is slightly bubbly, pour it over the fig/flour mixture. Mix the dough by hand or with a wooden spoon until all the flour has been absorbed. The dough will appear very rough and tacky, and look somewhat like cookie dough (with figs instead of chocolate chips).
- Place the dough in a well-oiled, large stainless steel or plastic mixing bowl and let rest in a warm place for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
- After the dough has rested, turn out onto a generously floured surface and divide into four equal parts. Roll each part into a cylinder (loaf shape) and place on a sheet pan that has been well floured or lined with parchment.
- Refrigerate the loaves for 2 hours or until they have firmed up.
- Remove the loaves from the refrigerator and place on a floured sheet pan. Reshape the loaves by hand into a somewhat square, squat loaf shape. Let rise until warmth has returned to the loaves and they start to flatten slightly. (They will not increase in size significantly.) Allow to rise another 2 hours in a warm place.
- Place a pizza stone in the oven and pre-heat oven to 400°. Place risen loaves in the oven and spray generously with water from a spray bottle. Bake for about 35 minutes, or until the loaves are a rich brown color and are firm to the touch.

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SHORT TAKES

Broom Brigade Arrives Nov. 7

This fall's Great Sweep, a citywide neighborhood cleanup sponsored by the mayor's office, will take place on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 to 11 a.m., exactly a week after Halloween. So get ready, gang. We may have lots of candy wrappers to pick up.

Our neighborhood volunteer captain is Noe Valley Democratic Club president Dave Monks, who lives (and tidies up) on Dolores Street. Monks says those who'd like to participate in the Great Sweep should meet at one of three locations: the Fire Station at 3880 26th St., the Fire Station at 100 Hoffman Ave., or the Upper Noe Recreation Center on 30th Street.

The city will provide maps, brooms, and bags, and several Noe Valley businesses will be donating breakfast munchies. "I sure hope Noe Valley folks show up and help out," Monks pleads. "It's difficult to clean up an entire neighborhood by yourself."

If you have questions or can lend moral support, call Monks at 821-4087.

Chaim Potok Visits Bookstore

According to Cover to Cover's Susan Talbott, "The store was just incredibly lucky," to be chosen for a visit from acclaimed author Chaim Potok.

"His new book is for children, so we do tend to be on that circuit," Talbott admits. Still, it's quite a treat to welcome the man whose works include such modern-day classics as *My Name Is Asher Lev*, *The Chosen*, and *Davida's Harp*.

Potok will read from and sign his new children's book, *Zebra*, on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m.

Since the store anticipates a larger crowd than usual, Cover to Cover will not open until noon on Nov. 22. About 200 complimentary tickets to the reading will be issued from Nov. 1 to 21, but no tickets will be available the day of the event.

If you wish to buy Potok's new book, please do so before the day of the reading. To get your tickets, stop by the store at 3910 24th St., or call 282-8080.

Music Fest at Two Local Bars

You can hear some great local musicians—and support the Noe Valley Senior Center and Centro Latino de San Francisco—at the upcoming 14th annual Noe Valley Music Festival.

This year's event will take place on Nov. 14, from 2 to 10 p.m., at two local bars: Noe's Bar on the corner of 24th and Church, and Kennedy's Pub at Church and 25th streets.

The lineup at Kennedy's will include the bands Jimmy and the Weasels and Rattle Can, while Noe's will showcase the Palm Garden Band, Rise, the S.F. Links, and the Robbie MacGregor Band. "These are all terrific musicians," says festival co-organizer Roy Derrick. "They can really play."

A \$5 donation pays your way into both bars, and T-shirts will also be on sale. Call Derrick at 826-1103 or Gus Vallejo at 285-2892 for more information.

How's Our Quality of Life?

The San Francisco Department of Public Works wants to hear your views at a forum Nov. 19 assessing the quality of life in Noe Valley, Twin Peaks, Eureka Valley, Dolores Heights, and nearby areas.

The forum, to be held at Mission High

School, 3750 18th St., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., is the 12th in a series of neighborhood meetings designed to improve city services and make them more user-friendly.

DPW planners are asking Noe Valley residents to call the city's "Quality of Life" message center at 554-5440 prior to the meeting, to let them know their top concerns. Other neighborhoods' wish lists have included cleaner streets, more trash bins, easier access to zoning and building permits, traffic and parking improvements, and better Muni scheduling.

If you have questions, feel free to call DPW at 554-6926 or check out the city's web site at www.sfdpw.com. Anyone who has special needs because of a disability can call 558-4524 to make arrangements 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Thanks for a Thanksgiving Feast

The tots at the Noe Valley Nursery School, located within the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street, will host their annual Thanksgiving dinner this year on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

A tradition since 1970, the Nursery School Thanksgiving started as an event just for the preschoolers and their families. But over the years the free dinner has grown to include the Noe Valley Seniors (whose group also meets at the Ministry for its weekday lunch program), assorted Noe Valley merchants, the alumni of the nursery school, and anyone who is hungry for a Thanksgiving meal, especially local homeless people.

"The parents do the baking—including about 10 turkeys," says organizer Nina Youkelson, "and the kids bake bread and pies." The dinner will start at noon and continue "until people go home," laughed Youkelson.

The feast will be held on the main floor of the church at 1021 Sanchez St. For more information, call the school at 647-2278. It's open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Alvarado Holds Open House

When we were starting kindergarten, most of us just trotted down the street to the nearest public school. Not so anymore. If your kid is starting school next fall, you may need to enroll her now.

To find out how the process works, stop by Alvarado Elementary School on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Margaret Wells, director of the school district's Educational Placement Center, will be on hand to explain the intricacies of optional enrollment requests.

You can also meet with Alvarado's kindergarten teachers and Principal Phyllis Matsuno, who will deliver a "State of the School" address and help her colleagues lead tours of the school.

To get more information about enrollment, call the Educational Placement Center at 241-6085, or visit the public schools' web site at www.sfusd.k12.ca.us.

Also on Nov. 7, the community will be banding together for the annual Alvarado School Work Day. Neighbors, merchants, parents, and other volunteers will spend the day washing windows, painting benches, tending to the school's gardens and courtyard, mopping floors in classrooms, and tackling other minor repairs.

You can join the crew at the school at 625 Douglass St. any time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, call Diane Platner at 648-6462.

What's Cookin' at the Food Bank

Do you want to volunteer to make others' holidays happier, but don't know how to go about it? If so, consider spending

Continued on Page 19



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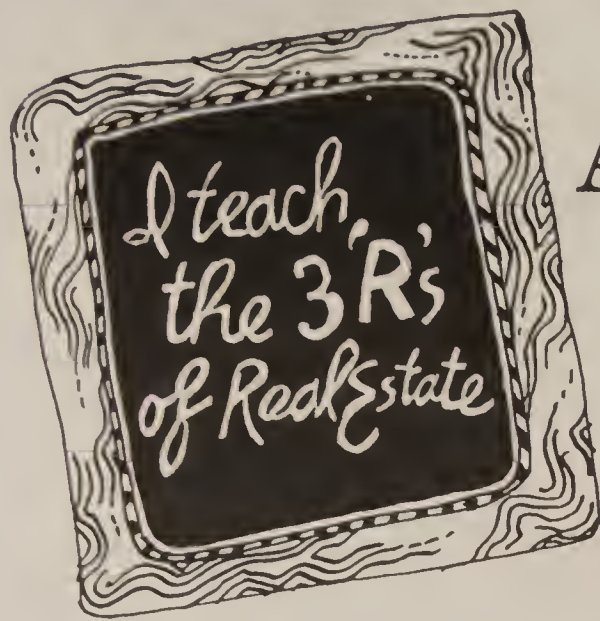
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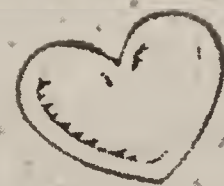


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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Page 17

some time this season at the San Francisco Food Bank.

During the weeks before Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Food Bank needs at least four "holiday chiefs" to confirm orders with other agencies and help distribute food. The agency also needs distribution people and a warehouse receiving staff to pitch in at its warehouse at 900 Pennsylvania Ave. near 23rd Street.

On Nov. 20, 23, and 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., groups of three to five volunteers are needed at St. Anthony's Church (at Golden Gate and Jones) to do "turkey receiving" — collect turkeys from donors and load the birds into Food Bank trucks.

If you think you could handle a shift, give Food Bank volunteer coordinator Frank Burtnett a call at 282-1907, ext. 244.

The Best of Blue (films, that is)

Doesn't it seem as if porn films have gone downhill over the past couple of decades? The folks at Good Vibrations, the sex toy store at the corner of Valencia and 23rd streets, think they have — so they're bringing back the best of the '70s "Golden Age" of blue movies at the Castro Theater on Nov. 5.

The celebration begins with a reception at which guests can sip wine and mingle with past and present porn stars. Then well-known sex educator Carol Queen will host and curate clips from the best and most important porn films from the '70s, including *The Devil in Miss Jones*, *Behind the Green Door*, and *Talk Dirty to Me*. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with several Golden Age luminaries, including Annie Sprinkle, Candida Royalle, and Richard Pacheco.

Reception tickets (which include the film and panel discussion) are \$50; film and panel tickets are \$10. The reception starts at 6 p.m., and the film at 8 p.m.

Advance tickets are available by calling Good Vibrations at 974-8980 or stopping by the store at 1210 Valencia St. You can also buy tickets for the film and panel discussion at the Castro Theater box office at 621-6120.

Crafts Fair Celebrates 20th

The San Francisco Women's Building needs volunteers to help put on the 20th anniversary Celebration of Craftswomen, the largest juried women's crafts fair in the country. The event will be held Dec. 5, 6, 12, and 13 at Fort Mason's Herbst Pavilion, located at Buchanan Street and Marina Boulevard.

More than 280 craftswomen will display their artistry at the two-weekend fair, which endeavors to show a cross-section of art by women of different cultural backgrounds. The celebration also gives new artists a way to introduce and sell their work.

Volunteers receive a free Celebration of Craftswomen T-shirt, as well as free parking and refreshments. To sign up, call 731-1818, or write Helynn Brooke, Celebration of Craftswomen, 1342 38th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122.

Pinocchio Comes to McAteer

Treat your kids to a musical — and show them just how long their noses can get if they tell fibs — at the Bay Area Educational Theater Company (E.T.C.) production of *Pinocchio*, to be staged two weekends, Nov. 6 to 8 and Nov. 13 to 15.

The play, which includes lively music and dance and a cast of 45 local kids and adults, is based on Carlo Collodi's classic tale about free will, responsibility, and the power of love.

Pinocchio will come to life in the theater at McAteer High School, 555 Portola Drive. Evening shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. But theater-goers can also attend matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Daytime "field trip" performances will be held Nov. 5, 6, 12, and 13 at discounted prices for school and senior groups. Tickets are \$10 for adults under 65, and \$7 for kids and seniors.

E.T.C. describes itself as a "parent-organized, family-oriented educational group dedicated to fostering self-esteem, individuality, and teamwork while creating quality theatrical productions." For more facts, give E.T.C. a buzz at 248-1770.

Volunteer Support for Patients

If you have a little spare time, why not share it with someone in need? Two local organizations are asking for your help.

Shanti, a San Francisco nonprofit serving people with AIDS and HIV, will be holding a comprehensive volunteer training on five days in November: Nov. 6 to 8 and 14 and 15.

Volunteers will learn how to provide emotional and practical support to people with AIDS and their loved ones.

To apply for the training, call Shanti recruiter Maureen Smith at 487-4722 or e-mail msmith@shanti.org.

Meanwhile, MidPeninsula Hospice Services, with offices in Mountain View and San Francisco, has announced a critical need for volunteers to provide companionship and support to patients near the end of life. There is a training coming up this month, and volunteers will be placed in their own community.

For information and an application, call 650-947-4271 or toll-free 888-755-7855. Ask to speak with volunteer coordinator Sharon Beckham.

A Rayne-Day Workshop

Looking to break into nonfiction writing for newspapers or 'zines? *Noe Valley Voice* contributor Rayne Wolfe can show you how she did it at a one-day workshop on Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to writing for the *Voice*, Wolfe pens two columns: "Bum Luck" for America Online's *Digital City*, and "What Works" for the *San Francisco Examiner's* Sunday Career Search section.

She can teach you about targeting submissions, composing cover letters, understanding style issues, focusing your energies, and networking with editors and other writers.

The \$100 workshop is sponsored by the Writing Parlor at 4475 23rd St. Call 642-7875 for the scoop.

This month's Short Takes were written by Erin O'Briant and Sally Smith.



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Meet Your Hometown Literary Agent

By Maire Farrington

Thinking about writing a book? Already writing one but don't know what you're going to do with it when you're done? If so, maybe you should find yourself an agent. Intimidated by the thought? It might not be as hard as you think. You might even find someone who lives right down the street. Take Noe Valley resident Sheryl Fullerton, for instance.

Five years ago, Fullerton left her job as editor-in-chief at a college publishing company, in order to start her own literary agency, Sheryl B. Fullerton Associates. She set up shop in her home of 13 years on Church Street. And five years later, the location still suits her fine.

"There are a lot of people in Noe Valley who work out of their homes. It's very pleasant in that way," Fullerton says. "You see a lot of people working with their laptops and that sort of thing. There are actually a fair number of publishing people who live in Noe Valley."

Martha & Bros. Coffee Company is one of her favorite spots to meet with colleagues or to take a breather from reading manuscripts—of which she receives around a thousand per year.

"I look for projects that have solid commercial appeal," Fullerton says. "This means two things—a good, well-researched idea that has a market, and an author who has the expertise and the kind of profile that makes him or her appealing to publishers."

"Because of my background in college textbooks," she continues. "I tend towards books that have a practical component to them. So I do a lot of business and management books. I've also done some psychology. And I love popular culture, so I have some interesting popular culture books."

One such pop culture title ("published just moments ago") is *Burritos! Hot on the Trail of the Little Burro*. "I call it 'The History, Mystery, and Lure of Burritos,'" Fullerton jokes.

The burrito book was conjured up and co-written by Noe Valley resident David Thomsen, along with Derek Wilson, who lives near Ocean Beach. "These guys were obsessed with burritos. They went on a three-week road trip researching burritos in the Southwest. They ate burritos three times a day every day, and came back practically green," recounts Fullerton. "They also had a nice sense of humor and a light touch, and yet they were really passionate about their topic."

Fullerton has also ushered in the work of another Noe Valley resident. Twenty-eighth Street resident Chloe Atkins' small-format photo book, *Girls' Night Out*, came out in April of this year.

"I saw her photography and I liked it," Fullerton says of Atkins' work, which focuses on "lesbians out having fun."

"So I asked her if she was interested in doing a book. I don't solicit clients very often, but I really liked her work."

The hardest part of her business, she says, is selling projects to publishers. "For every yes I get, I get a lot of no's. Sometimes by the time you get a yes, you thought you might not ever get it. Also, my writers tend to be a lot of first-timers, and they don't necessarily have the kind of track records that publishers want these days. So there's a lot of work to be done to get the project ready to sell, and then selling it."

When asked if she has any sage advice for would-be authors, Fullerton suggests two things—one, know thy market, and



Local literary light Sheryl Fullerton has "coached" quite a few Bay Area authors—and their manuscripts—into publication.
Photo by Beverly Thorp

two, know thy subject.

"There's a tremendous rise in people writing and wanting to be writers, and at the same time they haven't educated themselves about the publishing climate," she says. "They need to do their homework, and know what other books are out there and how their book is different or better or distinctive. The most important thing is to demonstrate that you have a really distinctive idea and that you have the credentials to write it."

The best part of her job, she says, is collaborating with good writers, and when she closes the sale, "seeing their books go out into the world. I like being in that coach role."

"I also love being self-employed," Fullerton reflects. "I like working out of my home and having a lot of autonomy and control over my time."

If hiking up that mountain of manuscripts starts to feel too tiring, she says, she can simply step out her front door and take a relaxing "urban hike" up 22nd Street to Twin Peaks. And maybe stop in for a bite at Chloe's Cafe or Eric's Restaurant on her way back.

Fullerton also serves as vice president of the San Francisco Bay Area Book Council's board of directors. And this month she's helping to organize the ninth annual San Francisco Book Festival on Nov. 7 and 8 at the Concourse Exhibition Center.

"We made a huge effort to make the programming as exciting as possible," says Fullerton of the festival, which is expected to attract 20,000 book lovers.

This year's highlights, says Fullerton, include appearances by Arthur Golden, whose *Memoirs of a Geisha* has topped the Bay Area bestseller list for months; memoir author Malachy McCourt (*A Monk Swimming*); and novelist Terry McMillan (*How Stella Got Her Groove Back*).

"For the sporting crowd, we have sports agent Leigh Steinberg, appearing with Vernon Glenn from KRON-TV," Fullerton adds. "And we have our rock 'n' roll contingent, Grace Slick and Patti Smith."

Slick, whose book *Somebody to Love?* just hit the shelves, will be in conversation with local music critic Ben Fong-Torres. Smith—songwriter, poet, and author of *Patti Smith Complete*—will appear solo.

Former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, who's now president of the American Association of Publishers, will also speak. "She wrote a book called *24 Years of House Work...and the Place Is Still a Mess*," Fullerton points out. "She's also versed in issues that affect the whole publishing, writing, and bookselling community."

In addition, poet and U.C. Berkeley professor June Jordan, author of the essay collection *Affirmative Acts*, will be appearing with Belva Davis.

Panel discussions—on everything from censorship and cinema to storytelling and Buddhism—also draw

Continued on Next Page

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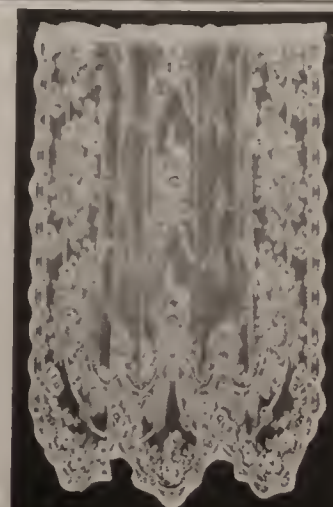
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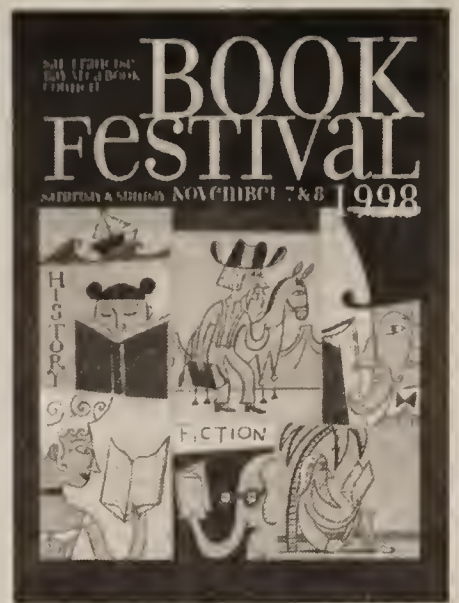
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crowds, Fullerton says. In her fourth year as the festival's author committee chair, she observes that "the Bay Area is full of very curious people. You can put on all kinds of panels, and people come and they're really interested in them." This year, she says, there will even be a panel for surfing enthusiasts.

New, she notes, is the Kids' Stage, which will include a reading by teen author Apollo (*Concrete Candy*), a panel of published teen writers, and a teen/adult poetry slam. "The cooking panel this time is equally fabulous," Fullerton says.

For a separate admissions fee, writers can also attend seminars on the nuts and bolts of getting published, such as how to find a literary agent.

Of course, if they've recently written a book on some alluring aspect of popular



Sheryl Fullerton, an organizer of the San Francisco Book Festival, hopes folks will turn out to see celebs such as Grace Slick and Patti Smith on Nov. 7 and 8.

culture, they might want to drop Fullerton a line instead. □

The San Francisco Book Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Concourse Exhibition Center, on Brannan Street between Seventh and Eighth streets. Adult admission is \$3; 18 and under free. For more information, call 908-2833 or check out the festival web site at www.sfbook.org.



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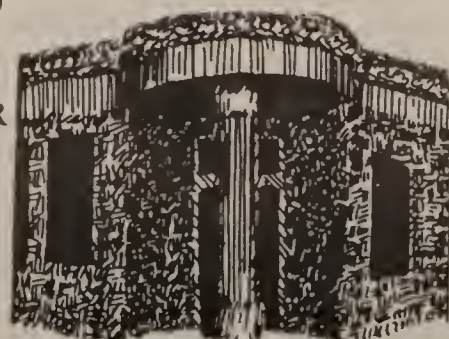
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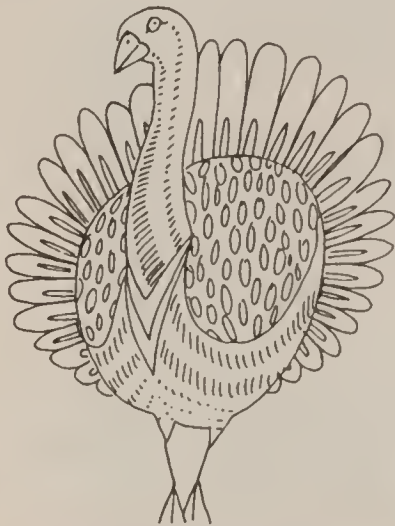
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Thanksgiving Potluck from The Voice Staff

By Erin O'Briant

When the talk turned to Thanksgiving at a recent *Voice* meeting, I just couldn't help bragging about the cranberry salad my mother makes every year. It's just so tangy and crunchy and sweet and...well, the next thing I knew, I was volunteering to collect favorite recipes from the *Voice* staff for our November issue.

I asked several of our editors and writers to pull the pencils out from behind their ears—and put on their chef's hats instead. The recipes they contributed are truly mouthwatering.



MISEY'S CRANBERRY SALAD

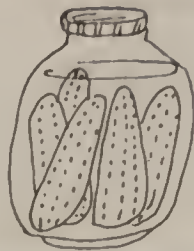
Contributed by Erin O'Briant

My grandmother got this recipe about 40 years ago from her friend Mrs. Robert "Misey" Misenheimer, of Spencer, North Carolina. Since then, it has been a staple in our home every Thanksgiving and Christmas. After my mother made a book of family recipes a few years back for each of her daughters, I began making Misey's Cranberry Salad myself every November and December (and sometimes January, if I hadn't gotten my fill).

Ingredients

- 1 large package cherry-flavored gelatin
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 cups orange juice
- 1 lb. cranberries ground coarsely (I use a blender)
- 1 orange rind, ground
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 large apple, chopped
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Add sugar and dissolve it; add juice. Let cool. Mix cooled liquid with fruit and nuts and let congeal. It's best to use a 9" x 13" ovenproof glass dish, so that the servings can be cut in squares, but individual molds or a ring mold would work well, too.



SPICED PICKLED CUCUMBERS

Contributed by Doug Konecky

"I don't know what these have to do with Thanksgiving," says Doug, "but I make these pickles every year, and I'm not allowed to go anywhere without them."

Ingredients

- 8 small pickling cucumbers
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 tsp. fresh minced ginger
- 1/2 tsp. crushed hot red pepper
- 4 tsp. salt
- 3 tbs. sugar
- 4 tbs. vinegar
- 1 tsp. sesame oil

Wash and dry the cucumbers, then cut them into small, finger-like rectangular pieces (that will make about 4 cups).

Put the cucumbers, along with the garlic, ginger, red pepper, salt, sugar, and vinegar, into a wide-mouthed jar. Put on the lid and shake the ingredients together. Marinate in the jar for at least 4 hours. Doug says it's better to leave them in for 3 days or so, shaking them up every 24 hours—they will be mushy and very flavorful.

When you're ready to serve the cucumbers, put them on a plate and sprinkle with sesame oil.

"Then look out, because people will really eat them up," says Doug. "They're good for Thanksgiving when people are having things like corn and potatoes, because they're nice and light."

JIM'S RETRO TURKEY DRESSING

Contributed by Jim Christie

Jim thinks this recipe may be both politically and Dr.-Ornish-ally incorrect because it contains pork. Oh well. It's still a lot more interesting than the recipe on the stuffing box. Enjoy!

Ingredients

- 1 lb. pork sausage
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 2 cups chopped celery
- 7-8 cups crumbled cornbread
- 1 cup dried apricots
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2 large eggs, beaten to blend
- 1 tbs. chopped fresh sage
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- Salt and pepper

Crumble the sausage into a 10- to 12-inch frying pan over medium-high heat. Stir often until sausage is lightly browned, about 5 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, transfer sausage to large bowl. Discard all but 2 tbs. fat in pan. Add onions to pan and stir often, until limp, about 5 minutes.

Add onions to bowl containing sausage. Add celery, cornbread, apricots, cranberries, eggs, sage, and butter and stir to mix well, adding just enough broth to lightly moisten dressing.

Spoon dressing into a shallow 2 1/2- to 3-quart casserole dish and cover. Bake in a 325° oven until hot, about 25 minutes. Then uncover and bake until top is lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes more. Add salt and pepper to taste.

SOUTHERN CHESS PIE

Jane Underwood's favorite version of pecan pie

"Sometimes pecan pie can be really gooey," says Jane, "which I don't like. But this pie isn't gooey—and it seems like people only make it in the South."

Ingredients

- Pastry for one 8-inch pie crust
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbs. flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 tbs. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup butter, melted (in pan)
- 1 cup pecans

Mix sugars and flour. Beat in eggs, milk, vanilla, and butter thoroughly. Fold in nuts. Pour into pastry-lined pie pan. Bake in a 375° oven for 40 to 50 minutes. Serve with whipped cream.

PUMPKIN PIE CRUNCH

Contributed by Jane Underwood

Jane says this is so decadent, she's never even tried the caramel sauce with it. But it's probably good, too.

Ingredients

- 30 oz. pumpkin pie filling
- 5 oz. condensed milk
- 3 eggs lightly beaten
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix with pudding
- 1 1/2 cups pecans chopped into small bits
- Melted butter (1 to 2 sticks depending on your decadence level)
- Whipped cream

Mix together pumpkin pie filling, condensed milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Pour mixture into two 9-inch ungreased pie pans with wax paper circles in bottom. Then distribute cake mix over the two pies. Sprinkle pecan bits over the cake mix, and dribble melted butter over all. Bake 1 hour in a 350° oven. Then chill. Invert and remove wax paper. Cut slices and cover with whipped cream. Then drizzle caramel sauce over each slice as desired.

CARAMEL SAUCE

- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 stick (1/4 lb.) melted sweet butter
- 1/4 cup cream

Whisk together over low heat in sauce pan until blended. Drizzle over chilled slices of pie.

QUICK TURKEY MARENGO

Contributed by Florence Holub

This is a good way to use up your leftover turkey after the big feast. Florence says. She recommends you serve this dish over quick-cooking rice for an extra-easy dinner. By the way, this recipe is rumored to have been a favorite of Napoleon Bonaparte himself. *Bon appetit!*

Ingredients

- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 onion chopped
- Pinch thyme
- Pinch garlic powder
- 1/4 cup (give or take) dry sherry or other wine
- 1 1/2 cup cubed cooked turkey
- Salt and pepper to taste

Bring all ingredients to a boil over a low flame. Serve over rice.

A Squash Recipe Even Dad Would Love

By Dodie Hamblen

True to my New England roots, squash is my favorite fall vegetable, and certainly, after mashed potatoes, the one I most associate with Thanksgiving. I grew up eating acorn, butternut, and occasionally Hubbard squash. Boiled and mashed. Good, but not very exciting.

On Thanksgiving it was my father's job to peel and cut up the squash—one of the few things I recall him ever doing in the kitchen. As he worked, he opined on whether the squash was wet or dry—dry being the most desirable. "Um, a nice dry squash," he'd say.

As a kid, I thought this was just too bizarre—my otherwise nondemonstrative father fussing over squash—but now I realize that low water content is an indicator of better flavor, and I find it endearing that my father had such strong feelings about something so simple and cozy as squash.

I have been cooking squash on my own for more than 20 years. And I've tried many recipes for squash—boiled, mashed, but mostly baked, often with brown sugar or maple syrup. But a few years ago, I came across this recipe for roasted squash. It's a winner. Roasting keeps the squash as dry as Daddy ever could have wanted. But with the orange zest and red pepper flakes, the squash definitely has flavor. Don't wait for Thanksgiving to try it. It's great with roast pork or chicken, any time of year.

ROASTED SQUASH

Contributed by Dodie Hamblen

Ingredients

- Olive oil
- 2 butternut squash, seeded, peeled, and diced into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- Fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 1/2 tsp. (or more) chopped orange zest (orange peel)
- 2 tbs. chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/8 tsp. (more or less) red pepper flakes
- 1 tbs. butter

Preheat oven to 400°. Lightly grease two large baking pans with olive oil. (I use spray olive oil for a lighter touch.) Spread the squash in one layer in the baking pans, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook 20 to 25 minutes, until nearly soft.

In a serving bowl, toss cooked squash with butter, orange zest, rosemary, and red pepper flakes. Serve immediately.

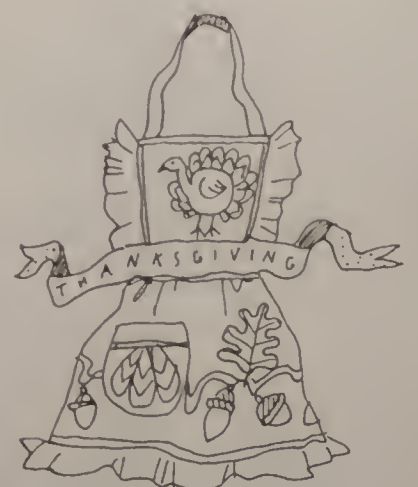


Illustration by Korol Barske

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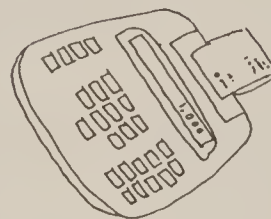
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O V E M B E R

OCT. 30: Sitarist Habib Khan performs INDIAN MUSIC from 7:30–9:30 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Oolores St. 821-1117

OCT. 31: The HALLOWEEN FEST at the Randall Museum features creepy crafts, ghoulish games, pumpkin carving, and music by Buddy Club performer Lisa Atkinson. 11 am–3 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9600

OCT. 31: If you're not too SPOOKED, walk up Hoffman between 24th and Elizabeth from 5 to 8 pm and visit the 18th annual Noe Valley HAUNTED HOUSE. Ask for the Donner Party 285-6265.

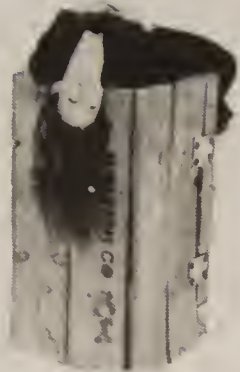
OCT. 31: BOO AT THE ZOO features a haunted nature trail, a costume parade and contest, and trick-or-treat stations. 11 am–3 pm. San Francisco Zoo, Sloat Blvd. at 45th Ave. 705-0761

OCT. 31: Upper Noe Rec Center will be HAUNTED all day. Goblins ages 1 to 3 are invited for treats and games from 10:30 am to noon; for boys and ghouls 5 and up, the rec center lobby will turn into a cemetery from 1 to 4:30 pm. Be very afraid! Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

NOV. 1: Music on the Hill (MOTH) presents the ARLEKIN STRING QUARTET performing music by Shostakovich, Brahms, and an original work by the group's cellist, Sergei Riabtchenko. 7 pm. St. Kevin's Church, 704 Cortland Ave. 241-1515.

NOV. 1 & 15: Noe Valley's INA CHALIS Opera Ensemble performs Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*. Nov. 1, 7 pm; Nov. 15, 7:30 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 826-8670.

NOV. 3: Get out there and VOTE!



Noe Venable (whose parents named her after the neighborhood they lived in) celebrates the release of her new CD and performs along with a stellar lineup of songwriters at the 21st San Francisco Song Cycle Nov. 7.

NOV. 3: The Adventist Healthvan offers blood pressure and cholesterol screening, 10 am–4 pm. Bell Market, 24th between Sanchez and Noe. 775-2570.

NOV. 3: Dr. Betty Carmack leads a PET LOSS Support Group for grieving pet owners. 7:30–9 pm. SF/SPCA, 243 Alabama St. 554-3050.

NOV. 3–8: Di Trevis' "Happy Birthday BRECHT," a portrait of the German playwright, benefits Send a Piano to Havana. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. Call 621-7797 for show times.

NOV. 3, 10, 17 & 24: Preschoolers 3 to 5 are invited to STORY TIME at the Noe Valley Library. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

NOV. 3, 10, 17 & 24: The 30th Street Senior Center hosts Latin and BALLROOM DANCE classes for all levels. 2 pm. Room 325, 225 30th St. 550-2221.

NOV. 3, 10, 17 & 24: Lauren Coleman's All That JAZZ (OANCE) class begins at 6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2782.

NOV. 4: The Noe Valley Library hosts a LAPSIT for infants and toddlers. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

NOV. 4–8: The FILM ARTS FESTIVAL of Independent Cinema screens 21 programs at the Castro and Roxie theaters. Call 552-FILM for a schedule.

NOV. 4–28: Ethel Mays exhibits "Alien Notebook," PHOTOGRAPHS "accidentally left behind by artists passing through our world en route to other planes and way stations." Tues.–Thurs., 3–10 pm, and Fri. & Sat., 11 am–5 pm, reception Nov. 4, 7–9 pm. S.F. Photography Center, 50 Scott St. 554-9522.

NOV. 4, 18 & 25: Learn SPANISH CONVERSATION through reading different Latin American authors, one chapter at a time, with discussion following. 7:30 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland St. 695-5160.

NOV. 5: The Main Library hosts the second annual literary QUIZ SHOW, moderated by ZYZZYVA editor Howard Junker. 6:30–7:30 pm. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

NOV. 5 & 6: Phil Frank's comic strip *Farley* comes to life in "FloraFauna Follies: A Fable of Old and Great Park," a supper show musical BENEFIT for the Friends of Rec and Park. Russian Center, 2450 Sutter St. Call 561-4649 for reservations.

NOV. 6: Cartoonist TOM TOMORROW gives a talk and slideshow, "Penguin Soup for the Soul." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

NOV. 6–14: The VIOLET SWERVE TRIO performs new work at the Dancers' Group Studio. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

NOV. 6–14: Chamber ensemble Manifold American Symphony performs Sebastian Craig's new OPERA, *Continuum*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. ODC Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

NOV. 6–15: The Bay Area Educational Theater Company performs a musical production of Carlo Collodi's classic, *PINOCCHIO*. Fri., 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 and 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm. McAteer High Theater, 555 Portola Drive. 334-3556.

NOV. 6–15: The Holocaust Center of Northern California's Young Scholars Program and the Bloc Theater Company present Betty Grandis' one-woman cabaret-style PERFORMANCE PIECE, "Exit Laughing: The Freest Theater in

the Reich." Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. 751-6040.

NOV. 7: Noe Valley residents will cheerfully take part in the GREAT SWEEP, the city's cleanup day, by meeting at the Hoffman or 26th Street fire stations, or at Upper Noe Recreation Center on 30th Street. Brooms and snacks provided. 9–11 am. 821-4087.

NOV. 7: Join a cleanup of OUGLASS PLAYGROUND, sponsored by the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association. Refreshments provided by local merchants. 10 am–1 pm. 26th & Douglass. 824-4680.

NOV. 7: Bethany United Methodist Church hosts a HOLIDAY FAIRE, including arts and crafts, baked goods, and attic treasures. 10 am–3 pm. 2299 Market St. 647-8393.

NOV. 7: Alvarado Elementary School hosts an OPEN HOUSE and discussion with Principal Phyllis Matsuno. 10:30 am–noon. 625 Douglass St. 241-6085.

NOV. 7: The San Francisco SONG CYCLE features Jeff Pehrson and Jim Brunberg of Box Set, Noe Venable, David Hopkins, Jon Birdsong, and friends. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

NOV. 7 & 8: Have your PET'S PORTRAIT taken with Santa Claus and enjoy a critter party, prizes, refreshments, and a "bow-wow boutique." 10 am–3 pm. SF/SPCA, 2200 16th St. 554-3000.

NOV. 7 & 8: Arthur Golden, Terry McMillan, Grace Slick, and Patti Smith will be on hand at the SF BOOK FESTIVAL. 10 am–6 pm. Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th & Brannan. Call 908-2833 for schedule.



The Native American singing trio Ulali will be among several groups performing at Everett Middle School Nov. 21, in celebration of bilingual education.

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CALENDAR

NOV. 8: Gina Rose Halpern and Jeff Wright as REAL *MAGIC perform "The Mystery Show" at the Marsh's Growing Stage. 1:30 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.

NOV. 8: Amy Bronwen Zemser signs her BOOK *Beyond the Mango Tree*. 2 pm. Cover to Cover Booksellers, 3910 24th St. 282-8080.

NOV. 8: The S.F. ROSE SOCIETY meeting features a lecture, "New Roses for 1999." 1 pm. S.F. County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park. 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. 436-0497.

NOV. 8: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC features soprano Susan Rode Morris and the Trio Kakadu, with violinist Anthony Martin, cellist Tanya Tomkins, and Steven Bailey on pianoforte, in a program of works by Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

NOV. 8: Sunday Night Vespers/EVEN-SONG (formerly Taize/Cantate) is a healing service of chants, silent meditation, and prayer. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

NOV. 8: Celebrate the CELTIC NEW YEAR at the annual Oíche Samhain Ceili, featuring a waltz contest and dance instruction from 6 to 7 pm. 7-10 pm. Irish Cultural Center, 2700 45th Ave. 564-7188.

NOV. 9: The Bad Check Enforcement Program holds a FRAUD PREVENTION SEMINAR at the SBA Entrepreneur Center, from 1:30 to 5 pm. 455 Market St. Call Glenn Baker at 272-2317 for a reservation.

NOV. 10 & 12: Jan Zobel leads a two-part seminar, "BASIC TAX and Record-keeping for Self-Employed People." 9:30 am. Valencia & 23rd. 821-1015.

NOV. 11: Pundits and pollsters will stop by to do a POST-ELECTION WRAP-UP with the Noe Valley Democratic Club. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-4087.

NOV. 11-24: CLAY ARTIST Harry Leat exhibits raku and high-fire goddess figures at Ruby's Clay Studio. Reception Nov. 13, 6:30-9 pm. 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

NOV. 12: FILMS for children 3 to 5 will be screened at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095



Violinist Anthony Martin is part of the Trio Kakadu performing at the Noe Valley Chamber Music Series Nov. 8.
Photo by David Allen

NOV. 12: "WOMEN AND SPORTS. How Far Have We Come?" is the topic at Radical Women's November meeting and dinner. 6:30 pm. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St. 864-1278.

NOV. 12: Sean Kelly lectures on "Incarnating the MILLENNIUM: From the Death of God to the End of History." 7-9 pm. Institute of Integral Studies, 9 Peter Yorke Way. 674-5500, ext. 241

NOV. 14: A CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE at ICA Auditorium benefits the Dominican Sisters. 10 am-5 pm. 24th & Guerrero

NOV. 14: PEGGY RATHMAN signs her book *Ten Minutes to Bedtime*. 2 pm. Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. 282-8080

NOV. 14: The 14th annual Noe Valley MUSIC FESTIVAL, held this year at two local bars, benefits the Noe Valley Senior Center and Centro Latino de San Francisco. 2-10 pm. Noe's Bar, 24th & Castro, and Kennedy's Pub, Church & 25th. 826-1103

NOV. 15: Vashti Beckett's HOLIDAY GIFT SALE includes handmade origami, ornaments, cards, journals, and jewelry. Noon to 6 pm. 1117-1/2 Castro St.

NOV. 15: The S.F. Children's Chorus performs a fall CONCERT at 3 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 826-8670

NOV. 15: The silent LIVE AUCTION at Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School features hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and entertainment. 6:30-10:30 pm. Slavonic Cultural Center, 60 Onondaga St. 585-8022.

NOV. 18: JULIANA KOHL shares musical activities with toddlers at 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

NOV. 18: Chris Carlsson's multimedia COMMUNITY HISTORY program, "Shaping San Francisco," begins at 7 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740

NOV. 19: The DPW hosts a NEIGHBORHOOD FORUM "Quality of Life" meeting for areas including Noe Valley. 6:30-8:30 pm. Mission High School, 3750 18th St. 554-5440

NOV. 20: KAREMENA STANCHEVA, soloist with the Bulgarian Women's Choir, performs with Bulgarian guest instrumentalists. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

NOV. 21: A PLANTING DAY organized by the Friends of Glen Canyon Park runs from 9 am to noon. Meet behind the Glen Park Rec Center. Elk & Chenery. 584-8576

NOV. 21: The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians sponsors a CELTIC DAY of spirituality and prayer starting at 9:30 am, and concluding with mass at 3:30 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. 648-6275

NOV. 21: Bethany United Methodist Church hosts a RUMMAGE SALE promising treasures galore. 10 am-3 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393

NOV. 21: The American TAEKWONDO Association, Noe Valley Club, holds a self-defense and street safety seminar for ages 16 and up. Noon to 4 pm. Bethany Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 587-7994

NOV. 21: Learn about CARNIVOROUS PLANTS at an exhibit and talk from 1 to 3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600

NOV. 21: Dance Brigade and Friends perform "Troubadour's Memory," a DANCE DRAMA. 8 pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. 522-8793

The End of 1998 Is Nigh

Want some free publicity for your next seance, concert, or art show? Planning to party like it's 1999? Then send word to the *Noe Valley Voice* by **Nov. 15**. That's the deadline for calendar items in the December 1998/January 1999 *Voice*, due out on Wednesday, **Dec. 2, 1998**.

You can snail-mail your notice to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail jaxvoice@aol.com.

For last-minute calendar changes or questions, call Calendar Editor Karol Barske at 285-6347.

NOV. 21: IRANIAN composer and musician Aidoush performs with the Human Exchange at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238

NOV. 22: CHAIM POTOK reads from his new book, *Zebra*. 2 pm. Cover to Cover, 3910 24th St. 282-8080

NOV. 22: SOPRANOS Sheryl Kaskowitz and Liz Velarde perform a recital of songs and duets by Scarlatti, Handel, Monteverdi, Mozart, Gluck, and Faure. 3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 864-6800

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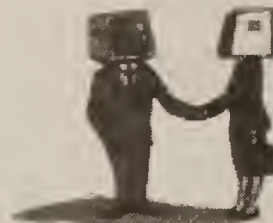
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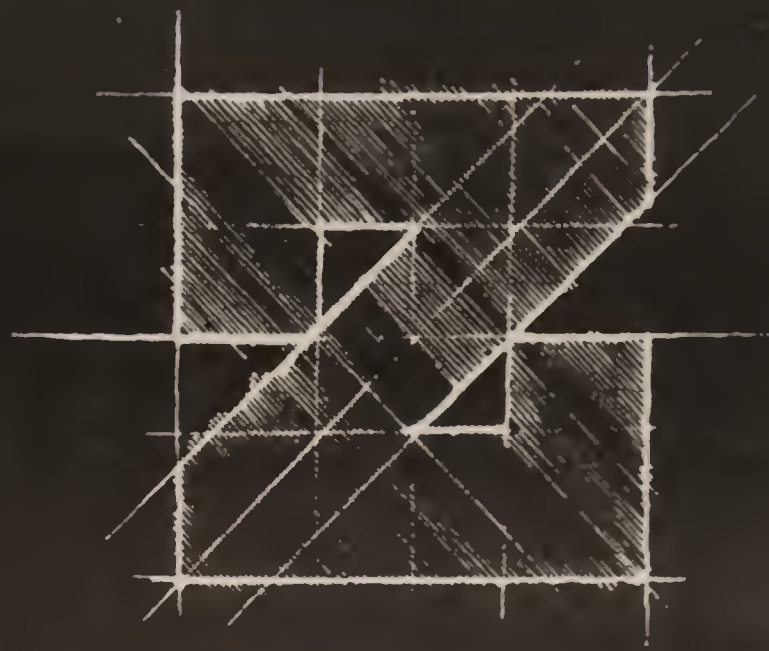
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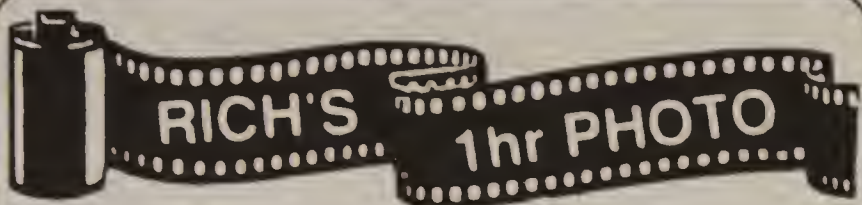


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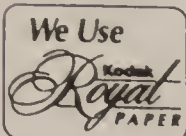
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Required Recreational Reading

Bringing memories of spring, summer, and September to this issue are more of our devoted readers. Thanks for writing, folks. We like hearing from you and appreciate your comments and compliments. We're glad you agree that vacations do not preempt your reading of the neighborhood news.



Mom Mindy and daughter Alexis Kershner rafted the Grand Canyon this June, where Lex celebrated her 18th birthday.



Alan Orlor stands in front of the Summer Palace in Brighton, England.



Posing during their family-reunion vacation to Ruiloba, Spain, are members of the Sordo family: Ivan Sr., Ivan Jr., Yolanda, and Faustino.



Jack Eiman and Rod Kiracofe of Dolores Street found the front of Les Deux Garçons cafe in Aix, France, a good place to show their reader loyalty.



Alexander Clemens and Millicent Bogert trekked all the way from 24th and Dolores streets to Turkey.

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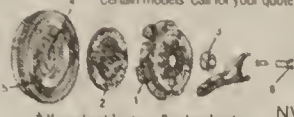
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Autumn Leaves. The bulletin board in the public parking lot on 24th Street illustrates that some forms of pre-Internet communication still thrive.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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STORE TREK

By Jim Christie

Storetrek is a regular feature of the *Voice* profiling new shops and walk-in businesses in the neighborhood. This month's column spotlights a tennis and sportswear shop, a new dry cleaners and wash-and-fold laundry, and a video store that boasts a top foreign film section.

Ming House of Dry Cleaning 3649 23rd St. (at Fair Oaks) 648-5368

Are your fall and winter duds in need of dry cleaning, washing and folding, repair or alteration, or all of the above? Well, there's a new dry cleaning shop at the edge of Noe Valley that will be happy to handle the load.

Ming House of Dry Cleaning opened in mid-August on the corner of 23rd and Fair Oaks streets. The store has a red-white-and-blue facade and a bright yellow interior with high ceilings.

Inside, you're likely to meet the owner, Wai Ming "Jason" Luk, who's been in the dry cleaning business for eight years now.

In fact, the name Ming is quite familiar in Noe Valley when it comes to laundromats and dry cleaners. Ming House of Dry Cleaning is the fifth shop that Jason Luk has opened in five years. But, says Luk, he currently owns and operates only two: the original Ming House at Church and 22nd streets, and his new establishment at 23rd and Fair Oaks.

Luk sold Ming's Coin Laundry on Church near Clipper, and used the proceeds to purchase the building that houses the new store. And the owner doesn't have far to commute either: Luk and his family (his wife and two children, who preferred not to give their names) moved into the second-floor flat above the shop. The Lukes are now installing dry cleaning equipment in the rear of the store, so that they can clean all their customers' articles on site.

Here's a sampling of Ming's dry cleaning prices: Shirts, pants, sweaters, blouses, and skirts are \$3 per item; dresses are \$5.50; two-piece suits are \$6; and overcoats are \$7. Ming House also handles silk apparel (50 cents more per item), blankets (from \$12), and comforters (from \$15).

Laundered and pressed shirts are \$2 for one, \$1.25 each for two to five, and \$1 each for six or more. Pants and skirts are \$2.25 each. Same-day service costs about 75 cents more in each category.

For wash-and-fold laundry, Ming House charges 70 cents per pound. And for Noe Valley customers who have a lot of dirty laundry (not the personal or political kind), Jason Luk is offering free pickup and delivery of loads costing \$20 or more (about 30 pounds).

Ming House of Dry Cleaning is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The shop is closed on Sundays.

21st Century Video 3936 24th St. (near Sanchez) 824-2121

The mystery of who would be first to occupy space in 24th Street's newest retail complex has been solved.

21st Century Video opened Sept. 23, in the large yellow building built in the lot once filled by the Second Spanish Church next to Bell Market. The video store—which is one of four shops expected to occupy the ground floor of the building—rents movies in two formats. It offers the standard VHS videotape cassettes, and



Owners Marlene and Brian Dunleavy are proud of their collection of foreign flicks at 21st Century Video, near Bell Market on 24th Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

the new DVDs (digital versatile discs), the latest technology on CD-size discs. The store also rents DVD players.

The proprietors are Brian and Marlene Dunleavy, a movie-loving husband-and-wife team who are proving that you *can* go home again. Both are native San Franciscans, and Brian was raised in Noe Valley. The couple spent the first eight years of their marriage living in the house Brian grew up in, near 23rd and Douglass. Since 1987, they've been residing in San Bruno.

In order to launch 21st Century Video, the Dunleavys recently wrapped up successful careers, Marlene as a legal secretary and Brian as a manager at a bottled water company.

They still live in San Bruno, but commute to Noe Valley seven days a week to run the shop. This means they spend a lot of time in their old haunts.

"We're very excited to be back," says Marlene. And Brian notes how pleased they are with the store's location, in the busiest stretch of 24th Street.

21st Century Video's gray and white interior is sleek and long, with track lighting throughout. Movie selections are displayed along the walls and in the central area, and they're all alphabetized within categories like "Family," "Drama," and "Comedy."

Current videos are on the lefthand wall as you enter the store. (All new releases arrive on Tuesdays.) Past the checkout counter on the righthand wall, there's a large section devoted to foreign films.

"We intend to be *the* place to go in the area for foreign movies," says Brian. "We don't have the space to compete with Le Video [the popular foreign film outlet on Ninth Avenue], but we're building a great collection of our own."

21st Century Video might also become a children's movie-watching spot. Brian says that a few Saturdays ago, a number of kids (and parents too) were captivated by *The Wizard of Oz*, which was playing on the store's 55-inch screen.

The Dunleavys estimate they have about 2,500 VHS and 200 DVD titles on hand. But the DVD library is growing by 20 to 30 movies a week, says Brian.

The store rents new movies for \$3 per day; older films are \$2 for two days; and adult videos are \$3.50 (adult films are in a curtained-off room in the back). A DVD player and three movies costs \$14.95 for a loan of two days.

Regular customers get a free bonus rental after renting 10 movies, and they also win a free rental on their birthday. The shop's number-one pick in October was the *X-Files* movie, reports Marlene.

21st Century Video is open Monday through Thursday, noon to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m.

40-Love Tennis & Active Wear 4156 24th St. (above Castro) 643-8859

Saunter up 24th Street toward Diamond, and you'll see a yellow disk emblazoned with a green "40" and a bright red heart, suspended over the entrance to 4156 24th St.

That's the logo and sign of a new retail store called 40-Love Tennis & Active Wear. Owner Dan Gibby opened the store on Sept. 27, in the space formerly occupied by One More Time consignment shop.

Gibby enjoyed a 15-year career in the hotel industry, with both Kimpton and Hyatt Hotels, before going it alone. When Hyatt offered him a transfer from Atlanta to San Francisco, Gibby, a native Californian, jumped at the chance. He bought a house in Noe Valley two years ago and started planning 40-Love Tennis.

"This is a wonderful place for this kind of store," says Gibby. "There are plenty of tennis courts around, and we're right in the heart of San Francisco."

Naturally, 40-Love specializes in tennis clothing and accouterments, but



Dan Gibby, owner of 40-Love Tennis & Active Wear, will serve up all your tennis needs at his new store on 24th near Diamond Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

there's also an impressive selection of... you guessed it...active wear.

You'll see familiar brand names such as Reebok, Adidas, Everlast, and Head, to name a few. There are sweatsuits (from \$60), lycra pants (from \$25), sports bras (\$17 to \$30), tee shirts (\$11 to \$18), shoes (walking, running, and tennis, from \$50), sunglasses (from \$10 to top-of-the-line Bollé at \$135), gym shorts, caps, watches, and sports bags.

The clothes and tennis gear are displayed in 40-Love's remodeled interior, a bright and airy two-room space (one room is "For Women Only"). There's also a dressing room and restroom.

40-Love carries well-known tennis racquets—by Prince, Dunlop, Gamma, and Wilson—which retail anywhere from \$35 to \$260, with the average between \$80 and \$120. Tennis balls are \$3 to \$3.50 a can.

"I want to appeal to recreational tennis players rather than club players," says Gibby, who's been a recreational player himself for years. He points to the store's bulletin board, which lists community events but also serves as a place for people seeking tennis partners to post names and phone numbers.

40-Love also handles tennis racquet grip replacement and repair, and racquet re-stringing. The store's "Frequent Stringer Program" awards every third stringing free of charge. (Stringing ranges from \$18 to \$30.)

Gibby will also be carrying juices, health bars, and vitamins. And don't forget the pooch—grab a can of "Fetchum's" (natural felt, no-dye tennis balls for dogs). Gibby is also developing an Internet web site for eventual online purchasing. In the meantime, customers are welcome to contact him at his e-mail address: Gibby40luv@aol.com.

The hours at 40-Love Tennis are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.



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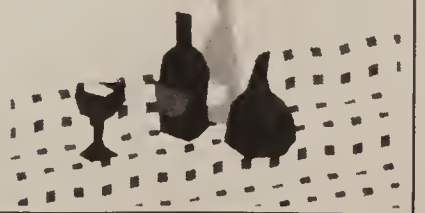
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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Some Unfinished Business

Upon reading last month's *Voice* hot off the presses, my man Leo spotted an error in the second paragraph of my column. He stated with authority that we had moved into our house on 21st Street in 1956, not in 1942 as I'd reported.

That is true. The Fisher family, who had built our house after the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, was still living there in 1942.

I wracked my brain trying to come up with a reason for my mental lapse. After some thought, I pieced together a sequence of events that may have led to the error:

Prior to publication, one of the *Voice* editors called me to ask how long we had lived in our house. Having a poor memory for numbers, I called out to my always reliable husband for the answer. He promptly supplied the correct number, 42, which I relayed back into the phone. This was taken to mean the year 1942, rather than the number of years, 42, that we have lived here.

I should have caught the error on proofing day, but as I glanced over the copy, everything looked fine to me.

After the *Voice* came out, I felt foolish remembering how, in 1942, we lived not here on 21st Street, but in a valley west of Glen Park that the inhabitants had dubbed (for good reason) "Pneumonia Gulch."

Our first son, Michael, was born there. But at 3 years of age, he came down with a dangerous case of lung inflammation, so as soon as he recovered, we moved to the warmer climes of Walnut Creek and Grass Valley for several years. Michael survived the illness and led a normal, happy childhood. But his life ended at age 25.

Michael would have been 56 years old on Nov. 25 of this year. In his memory we have planted a tree



on the beautifully landscaped easement on Sanchez Street near the corner of 21st Street. An Australian evergreen with the Aborigine name of Lilli-pilli, the tree bears small white blossoms that grow into lush pinkish-lavender berries. It is 5 feet tall at present, but will grow even larger. (Look for the second tree from the left, in the top row of plants.)

Speaking of plants, a few readers have asked me for the name of the aggressive ivy I mentioned last month—the one that was threatening to topple the fence in our back yard. I did not know its name at the time (even though my editors asked me for that too!), but I have since met a knowledgeable young horticulturist who provided the information: The persistent creeper is called Algerian Ivy. It has thick, leathery leaves and grows like wildfire. To get rid of it (or any other invasive vegetation), the horticulturist recommended a product called Roundup, which Leo and I may have to resort to if our summer pruning failed to halt the invasion.

People also often ask me about the friendly slug whose travels I documented in my October 1995 and September 1996 columns. (My articles

always seem to get sluggish in the fall!)

Leo and I first noticed our mysterious caller in the summer of '95, via the intricate silvery patterns he (or she) was leaving on our brown synthetic rug. Then one night I spotted something moving at my feet: a 3-inch-long slug.

The little fellow had extravagantly embellished the spot where our family dog Freddie had expired. So, not wanting to rule out the possibility of reincarnation, we named him Freddie too.

One night Leo came down in the dark for a drink of water. As he neared the edge of the rug, he felt something soft under his bare foot. He knew what it was, so he turned on the light to inspect the damage, and was relieved to find Freddie alive and moving.

Freddie had a set route from the back door, across the rug, to below the counter where Leo sprinkled Nestle's Quik into his morning coffee. Undoubtedly some of the chocolate powder,

enough to satisfy the sweet tooth of a slug, had drifted down to the rug.

Freddie's nocturnal visits and silvery designs continued for about a year. We eagerly anticipated them, and actually became fond of reading his hieroglyphics. Then suddenly the paths of silver stopped, and after a year had passed without a trace of our little friend, we assumed he'd met his demise.

Then sometime last spring, the silvery strands began to appear on the brown rug again each night. They looked similar to Freddie's, but we wanted to make sure. So one night I tiptoed down the stairs, switched on the light, and there he was in midjourney from the back door to his "Quik claim." When the bright light flashed on, he reversed his direction and headed back to the door whence he came.

Leo saw him a few nights later and agreed that he looked like the original slug in size and color. We gave him the benefit of the doubt, and accepted him as the real thing—our family slug.



During this period we noticed that the rug area facing the back door was showing wear, so we turned it over. A wise decision for us, but a potential disaster for our pet. The move caused Freddie to conduct a frantic search for familiar landmarks. Judging from the silvery explosions all over the rug, he was fast spinning out of control.

For several nights Freddie beat a path to the living room as never before. One morning his tracks went up and down the sides of four 2-foot-square cushions leaning against the wall.

Then finally the poor creature seemed to get his sense of direction back. Still, we had to tread carefully whenever we entered a darkened room, for fear of flattening him forever.

When I padded into the hall downstairs early one morning this past September, it was so dark I had to hug the walls until I reached the light switch. When I turned on the light, there he was, very close to being trampled. To prevent this, I scooped him up on a piece of paper and deposited him outside the door. When he refused to let go, I shoved him off.

Maybe he was shocked at my rude treatment. Or perhaps he was just miffed about not getting his quota of Quik. In any case, two weeks went by and no sign of Freddie.

Now Leo and I have started to think we've seen the last of him. We have also discovered how nice and carefree it

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feels to walk around on our rug without having to tiptoe or look down constantly.

We've even decided to fill in the space under the back door, to prevent any more small uninvited visitors from entering our family circle.

I hope that answers your questions.



And now I would like to ask one myself: If Freddie does come back, would anyone out there like a nice housebroken slug for a pet?



MORE BOOKS to READ

This month's selection of new books at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library includes two books you can really sink your teeth into: an anthology of writings about mothers and daughters and *The Excruciating History of Dentistry*. You can check them out by visiting the branch, at 451 Jersey St., during open hours: Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; or Saturdays, noon to 6. In addition to books, the library has magazines, CDs, back issues of the *Noe Valley Voice*, access to the Internet, and a hushy black cat who strolls in at least once a day. If you drop by to pet the cat, please also thank Head Librarian Roberta Greifer and Children's Librarian Carol Small for providing us with their helpful book lists. Or feel free to call 695-5095 to see whether a book (or cat) is on the shelf.

Adult Fiction

◆ *Flight of Angels*, Ellen Gilchrist's latest short story collection, features several familiar characters from her previous novels, along with several new, equally eccentric ones.

◆ Ethan Canin's *For Kings and Planets* explores the conflicts that develop between a worldly, character-flawed New Yorker and a naive young man from a small Midwestern town.

◆ With authors from Edith Wharton to Dorothy Allison, *Mothers and Daughters: An Anthology*, edited by Alberto Manguel, contains stories by 20 well-known writers on this vital relationship.

◆ In *Trouble in Paradise*, Roberta Parker's 30th novel, a crew of ex-cons attempts to loot an island by blowing up the bridge that connects it to the mainland.

◆ In *The Way I Found Her*, by Rose Tremain, a 13-year-old boy who falls in love with a Russian novelist falls to pieces when she mysteriously disappears.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ Part testimonial to a pioneer industry, *Burn Rate*, by Michael Wolff, describes the roller-coaster trials, tribulations, and rewards of being an Internet entrepreneur.

◆ Full of "toothsome tales and oral oddities," *The Excruciating History of Dentistry* is an irreverent look at the profession by non-dentist James Wynbrandt.

◆ Written from the point of view of the pilot, *Inside the Sky: A Meditation on Flight*, by William Langewiesche, depicts flight both as a scientific routine and as a spiritual process.

◆ A family memoir that reads like a novel, *Tea That Burns*, by fourth-generation Chinese-American Bruce Edward Hall, takes place in New York City's Chinatown.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer

Children's Fiction

◆ "Cowboy Bunnies wake up early/Ride their ponies/Hurly hurly," then go through the rest of their active day in *Cowboy Bunnies* by Christine Loomis. Ages 2 to 4.

◆ Torontosaurus Rex, Billy Batter, Patrick Ping, and Patrick Pong are characters in *Dinosaur Dinner (with a Slice of Alligator Pie)*, a delightful selection of poems by Canadian writer Dennis Lee. Ages 3 to 7.

◆ George Shea's *First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers* is based on a true story about a boy who knew the Wright Brothers and helped to test one of their earliest flying machines. Ages 5 to 8.

◆ "Where do mummies like to sit at the movies?—Dead center." "What did the doctor tell the little mummy at her checkup?—You grue-some." There are many more like this in *Mummy Riddles* by Katy Hall and Lisa Eisenberg. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ Joshua is excited about being promoted to the fourth grade, but then realizes he'll be in the same class with his nemesis Tommy Wilhelm in *Joshua T. Bates in Trouble Again*, by Susan Shreve. Ages 8 to 10.

◆ In *Petty Crimes*, a collection of short stories, Gary Soto introduces the reader to a number of memorable young people, each dealing with some of life's problems. Ages 11 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

◆ Fred Rogers ("Mr. Rogers") encourages children in newly-formed families to acknowledge and talk about their feelings in *Stepfamilies*. Ages 5 to 8.

◆ In *Celebrations!* Anabel Kindersley gives brief information on a wide variety of holidays celebrated by children and adults in many different countries of the world. Ages 7 to 10.

Annotations by Carol Small

Singalong with Juliana

◆ Special guest *Juliana Kohl* will present musical activities for toddlers on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m.

Films for Kids

◆ The library will show *films* for children ages 3 to 5 on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Infant and Toddler Lapsit

◆ Children's Librarian Carol Small leads the rhymes and lullabies at the Wednesday evening *lapsit*, 7 p.m. on Nov. 4.

Tell Me a Story

◆ Kids in the 3 to 5 age bracket are invited to *preschool story time*. It's 10 a.m. on Tuesdays Nov. 3, 10, 17, and 24.

Sunday, Nov. 8 • 2pm

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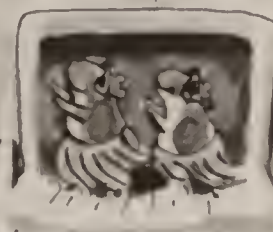
Sunday, Nov. 14 • 2pm

Peggy Rathman

author of *Officer Buckle and Gloria*
and *Goodnight Gorilla*

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*Ten Minutes
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Sunday, Nov. 22 • 2pm

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Kids' Picks

Have Your Kids Hit the Growing Stage Yet?

By Dodie Hamblen

Quality entertainment and after-school activities that stimulate kids' creativity without straining the family wallet are hard to come by. That's why parents cheer when they hear about the Growing Stage, an innovative children's theater program for kids ages 3 to 12.

Located at 1062 Valencia St., near the corner of 22nd Street, the three-year-old Growing Stage is part of the Marsh Theater, a local showcase for new and experimental performance pieces.

For \$40 to \$60 (all fees are on a sliding scale), kids can take a six- to eight-week series of classes in drama, creative movement, or art. Talented performers and artists teach the classes, which are limited to 12 students.

Art classes include theater-related crafts, such as puppet and mask making. The movement classes concentrate on dance and improvisation. And of course, the drama classes teach kids how to act.

"These classes are a great way to build self-esteem," says Gina Scher, who directs the program. "We also have monthly matinee performances. Kids love the excitement and fun of live theater."

Scher, a Yale graduate with 10 years of experience in children's theater, leads the drama classes herself. During the course of the "rehearsals," the kids learn how to produce a play from start to finish. Each week they hone their skills—doing improvisations, rehearsing lines, blocking scenes, and playing theater games.

"Theater really helps kids learn communication skills," says Scher. "And it's a fun way to learn cooperation."

Scher says the kindergartners and first-

graders usually start out with singing and dance, whereas the older children concentrate more on using their voices and bodies to communicate action and character to an audience.

At the end of the two-month sessions, the students put on a short play or scene for family and friends. Past performances have included *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *James and the Giant Peach*, the Paddington Bear stories, and other fables and fairy tales.

Peter Vericat, a third-grader at Lakeshore Elementary School, has taken Scher's classes for two years—recruiting four or five of his schoolmates along the way. His mom, Sally Geisse, raves about the program. "Gina is fantastic. She makes it fun, and they really learn something. It's not easy to find theater classes for kids. Peter really likes it, and I'm pleased that he's found an outlet."

The Growing Stage also offers monthly matinees that feature local theater troupes performing plays, musicals, and puppet shows. Last month, DolphinTales Story Theater brought a Dr. Seuss classic, *The Lorax*, to life on the stage. The month before, the Growing Stage hosted its annual Fall Arts Festival with storytelling, music, art, dance, and games.

Two more matinees are coming up this year. On Sunday, Nov. 8, at 1:30 p.m., a performing duo called Real*Magic will present "The Mystery Show." A Growing Stage favorite, Real*Magic promises to tap the kids' imaginations with original songs and stories.

On two weekends in December—Dec. 5–6 and 12–13—theater lovers can enjoy a winter holiday program, starting at 1:30 p.m. each day. The program features short plays, music, and poetry celebrating Hanukkah, the winter solstice, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. Admission to all matinees is \$5 to \$8.

The next class session at the Growing Stage will run from Nov. 10 to Dec. 15. Art classes—taught by Norita Gonzalez, director of Mascaritas Puppet Theatre—will meet on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. (for ages 6 to 11) and from 5 to 6 p.m. (for kids 3 to 6). Students will create masks and puppets, using a variety of materials.

Scher's drama classes, also held on Tuesdays, will meet from 4 to 5 p.m. (for kindergartners and first-graders) and from 5 to 6 p.m. (for second- through fifth-graders).

To get the jump on the Growing Stage, call 826-5750, ext. 2. □

The Growing Stage at the Marsh Theater, whose drama classes are run by Gina Scher (center right), is a perfect venue for kids who like to "act out." Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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Six-month-old Camryn poses with her entire family, featuring brother Logan, 6, and sister Jordan, 8³/₄, plus Dad and Mom, Randy Smith and Sidney Hollar. Photo by Beverly Thorp

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Camryn Forest Hollar Smith

Camryn Forest Hollar Smith's birth was supposed to have been a scheduled C-section, but she had her own plans. Her mom, Sidney Hollar, had lined up babysitting for Camryn's sister Jordan, 8, and brother Logan, 6, but Camryn decided to show up two days early.

"Sunday morning she said, 'It's time.' It's kind of amazing who rises to the occasion," Sidney says. "You just get on the phone and say, 'We're having a baby today. Can you watch Jordan and Logan?'"

Friends Tim and Beth Hart-Andersen, both ministers, stepped in to handle the spur-of-the-moment request ("we knew they were up at seven in the morning on a Sunday," says Sidney).

Former Noe Valley neighbor Clark Hay also helped out with child care, allowing Sidney and dad Randy Smith extra time to welcome their daughter at California Pacific Medical Center.

Camryn arrived at 2:25 p.m. on April 19, 1998, tipping the scales at 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

Within hours of the birth, Sidney was scouting the hospital nursery. "There are so many babies in that hospital," she relates. "I said, 'I'll know my baby anywhere.' And I walked in and went right up to this Chinese boy. And it was, 'Oh, my!' because babies really do look alike. No wonder they have those wrist bands."

But at 5 months, with her soft brown hair, big brown eyes, and sweet face,

Camryn now bears "a striking physical resemblance to Jordan and Logan. They all three look like they're related, which is comforting," Randy jokes.

Due to her early arrival, Randy says, "We were still talking about names for her at the hospital." Both parents liked the name Camryn, and the name Forest is after Randy's grandfather, who owned a wood mill in Ohio and crafted the crib that Camryn sleeps in.

Randy, 42, an engineer, and Sidney, 40, an attorney, met in 1978 while working at a retreat center in New Mexico. They tied the knot in 1985 and moved to San Francisco in 1986. The following year they bought their house on Sanchez Street. Camryn has been quick to make herself right at home.

"It's been such a different experience for us and for her, to be born into a family with other children already," Sidney observes. "Whenever we go somewhere, there are lots of children around."

"It's clear that she is very aware that she has two siblings already on the planet, and she is thrilled with the notion," Randy adds. "She just comes alive when they're around. And they are individually and collectively better than any pacifier she's ever had."

That may be because Jordan and Logan like to ham it up for their baby sister with their song-and-dance routines. Camryn, in turn, is eager to show off her progress with motor skills, flexing her hands and feet, and chewing on her toes. "She's at the classic 4- to 6-month stage of grabbing things with her hands and getting them near or into her mouth," Randy says. "Jordan and Logan love to let her grasp their hair, and then feign pain."

Overall, Camryn is "pretty easygoing," says Sidney. "She just cries when she's

Continued on Next Page



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MORE MOUTHS

Continued from Previous Page

tired or hungry. When she was first born, my sister came out from Nevada to help me. One time she went outside and the house alarm went off, and it was just blasting. I was sleeping and thinking, Boy, Camryn sure is loud this morning." Though she's yet to reach security-alarm volume, Camryn is currently working on her laugh, and every morning she talks up a storm in her crib, with lots of googoo's and gaga's.

Nestled in her Baby Bjorn, Camryn has no trouble keeping up the pace on family hikes. "She seems to like it," Randy says, "as long as you have her in that frontpack and facing forward. She loves the view, she loves being upright. You feel like you're in some *Alien* movie sequel, with this head sticking out of your abdomen!"

Favorite destinations include Tilden Park, the Tennessee Valley Trail, and Crystal Springs Reservoir.

This summer Camryn made it out to Colorado to climb mountains on a family vacation, despite a couple of mishaps en route. "We took a cab to the airport and we got out and I counted all the bags, paid the driver, and got the tickets. We were checking out and the cab driver said, 'You forgot something.' I said, 'No, no, I've got everything.'" The driver then pointed at Camryn in the back seat. "Everyone in line was horrified," Sidney recalls with chagrin. "Then we got to Denver and left the stroller at the airport.

We went back for it."

Closer to home, Camryn enjoys bopping around the city with Mom, or helping with volunteer work at Jordan and Logan's school. "She's like the mascot at Live Oak School," Sidney says. She also roots from the sidelines at her siblings' soccer games, and on Sundays hangs out with the little ones in the nursery at Old First Presbyterian Church.

"When I had Jordan and Logan, I was really involved in these mothers' groups, but now this baby just gets to drive around all day," Sidney says. "Jordan asked me, 'Are you going to join another one of those walk groups?' and I said, 'No, we're the chauffeur group.'"

Having a newborn in the house, notes Sidney, "is so sweet, it's a blessing. This woman at our church said, 'It's like she fell from heaven.' And this time you know how fast it goes. It's so fleeting. You know that when she's crying, it's not going to be forever."

"Having a second and then a third child reinforces that [feeling], rather than dilutes it," Randy agrees. "We're aware of how short the infant-to-toddler stage is." But it's one of the most emotionally rewarding for parents. "That's what we're here for," says Dad. ☐

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Noe Kids. Best buds Andy Thompson (left) and Gabriel Kaufman are ready and able to have big fun at our local playgrounds.
Photo by Pamela Gerard

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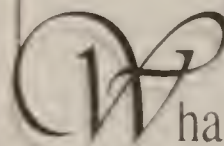


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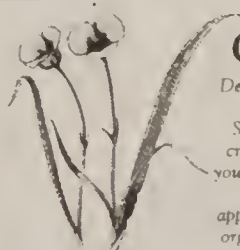
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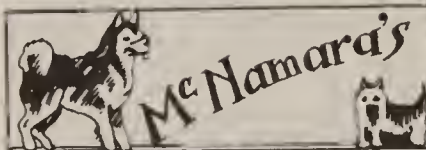
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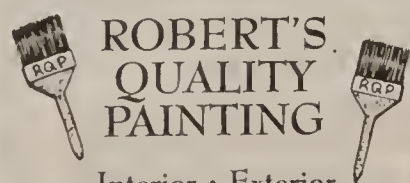
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Amnesty International Group 80

Contact: Lauren Fondahl, 587-7299
Mailing Address: 562 Bright St.,
San Francisco, CA 94132
Meetings: First Thursday of month, Noe
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Business Network International

Contact: Mike Hager, president, 285-7409
Mailing Address: 276 29th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every Tuesday, 8 to 9:30 a.m.
Miss Millie's Restaurant, 4123 24th St.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230;
capa@home4us.org

Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Eureka Valley Recreation Center,
100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month,
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings
semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Keith
Eickman, 282-8988; Dennis Downing,
647-0937; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe
Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3428
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July,
August, and December), Eureka Valley Rec-
reation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month,
Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.
Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086
Mailing Address: 4250 26th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: General meetings are held the
second Thursday of the month in Feb.,
April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.
Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco

Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal
Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie,
10:15 a.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: Julie Dilley, president, 647-7196,
jdilley@earthlink.net; Joanna Sacks, vice
president, 495-1470, joanna@softmed.com
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first
Tuesday of month; general meetings
quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month,
7 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, president,
641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick,
Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574,
San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month,
Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Lunch, Mon.-Fri. (donation
\$1.50), 12:30 p.m. Discussion, arts and
crafts, Wed. & Fri., 10:30 a.m.
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month,
St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez.
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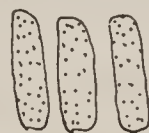
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Prenatal Yoga. Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyful pregnancy. Please call Elizabeth at 931-7291 to register for this class. Six Mondays beginning Nov. 2 (no class Dec. 7), 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$42. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Infant Massage Classes. Learn a sequence of strokes that promotes physical development in your baby and supports the bonding process. Massage can provide relief from gas and teething and help babies sleep longer. Also, a daily massage enhances the communication between infant and parent, and provides relaxation for both. Classes are taught privately in four meetings, 1 to 1½ hours each. Instruction by Krista Wathne, certified infant massage instructor and member of the American Massage Therapy Association. Call 282-1779 for more information.



FISH

Pimples, Skin Problems, Cellulite? Control group needed! Possibility of \$200 paid for before and after pictures if published. Call: (415) 908-6760.

Healing Massage for Women. Swedish/deep tissue/acupressure/reflexology. Aromatherapy optional. Release chronic tension. Oxygenate and detoxify your tissues. Stand taller and breathe deeper. Noe Valley. Heather McFarlin, CMT. (415) 789-7821.

Housecleaners. Excellent job, good price, and references. Call seven days a week for more details, (415) 255-0636. Josely and Sergio.

PC Training Win95, Word 97 college teacher, national author, lots of patience; 1½-hour minimum for \$40. 864-5311.

Housecleaning. Experienced. Excellent references. Own car. \$15/hour. (650) 992-0538, Gil.

Furniture Restoration. Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery. Caning. Veneering. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Impressive portfolio and references. Free estimate, pick-up, and delivery. Call Boris, 415-587-3416.

Non-Toxic Housecleaning. It's healthy, effective, and affordable. I'm thorough, reliable, and honest. References available. Russell, 431-4975.

Ayurveda — Yoga for Your Body Type. Ayurveda is the science of life; it is a truly ancient holistic health system from India and a sister science to yoga. Join Gandharva Sauls to discover yoga postures and breathing practices for your body type, the role of season and times of day, and which poses are contraindicated for you. Gandharva has a private practice in New Jersey and New York and is on the faculty of the New York Open Center. Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6 to 8 p.m., \$20. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

One-Eyed Jacks. We buy out or conduct on-premise estate sales. Will also buy single items, i.e. period furniture from 1960s back (some newer) and collectibles, oriental rugs, art, jewelry, lamps, tools, garden statuary and pottery, bric-a-brac, and more. Call or visit us at 1645 Market St. 621-4390 and 585-1901, Jim.

Licensed Painter. Small and large jobs. Interior and exterior. Also plaster repair. Please call Ed at 995-4666. License 497-214. Free estimates.

Web Page Design from \$600. If you're in business and you don't have a web site, even a one-page image, your business will suffer. The Web is the fastest growing way consumers find products... can they find you? Secondly, we can promote your site with search engine submissions, publicity, and newsletters. Call us for makeovers of existing sites, too. Yvonne, 415-643-2800, www.hand-shake.com.

Bill's Housecleaning. Stoves, walls washed, hardwood floors cleaned and waxed, windows, bathroom walls, tile and fixtures. Call anytime. Bill, 415-351-1767.

Yoga Psychology and Philosophy. This seven-week class on yoga psychology and philosophy is based on Patanjali's yoga sutras. It teaches us the yogic concept of the mind and how to use it more effectively. Required reading: *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali* (available at the institute for \$16). Please register in advance. Call (415) 821-1117. Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$49. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Tutoring K-5 (all subjects) and English lessons (all ages). 415-863-1356.

The Joy of Singing. Overcome shyness, sing with support, expand your breath, and develop your true voice. Sensitive, experienced teacher, classically trained. Call Kamala, 415-681-4279.

Property Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to a building or constructing a new building? Get the input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 27 years experience. Free initial consultation.

Why Clean? Allow Me to Do It! Save time and money with a detail-oriented professional. Cleaning extraordinaire at your service. Mike, 928-3199.



BEEF

Garage or Carport Wanted to Rent. 647-6437.

Furniture Stripped and Refinished. Excellent work quickly done, e.g. three-drawer dresser with mirror, \$200 with pick-up. One-Eyed Jacks, 621-4390.

Time for You Housecleaning. Experienced housekeeper with reasonable rates. Call for a free estimate. References available. 415-642-6168.

Depth Psychotherapy for individuals and couples. Specializing in cross-cultural issues. Empowerment for Women, ongoing group, has openings for women in 30s/40s. Madhu Baheja, MFCC, 415-487-6693.

Piano Lessons! Repertoire, theory, history, listening skills taught by performer with master's degree in piano performance. Classical music only. Lessons taught near Stonestown or in your home. Patient, experienced teacher. Call for more information. 650-400-9561.

Anxious? Depressed? Seasoned therapist specializing in the treatment of anxiety difficulties (stress management, high anxiety, panic, agoraphobia, specific fears), and depression using proven cognitive-behavioral techniques. Noe Valley. Insurance accepted. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D., licensed psychologist PSY 12642. Call 415-824-3701 for information.

The Wannabillies. Celtic, old-time, bluegrass, instrumental music. Duo or trio, guitar, flute, violin. An uplifting and inspiring addition to your gathering. 415-773-8185.

Newsletters are the best way to promote your business. They give people a hands-on connection to you on a monthly or quarterly basis. Four-page newsletters start at \$500, plus printing and mailing costs. Yvonne, 415-643-2800, www.hand-shake.com.

Ixtapa Mexico. Two-bedroom, two-bath bungalow available all year near beach and hotels. \$300/week. 415-641-5636.

Cash for Old Wood Furniture, rugs, and household items. One-Eyed Jacks, 621-4390.

Clean & Natural. Environmentally friendly cleaning. Same day service. Call Simone, 415-303-9865.

Healthy Relationships. Tired of talking about your feelings and seeing no change in your life or your relationship? Relationship therapy with an emphasis on learning new relationship skills. Individuals and couples. Noe Valley. Insurance accepted. Valerie Hearn, Ph.D., licensed psychologist PSY 12642. Call 415-824-3701 for information.

Piano Lessons for kids. Noe Valley-based musician with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting beginning students. Fifteen years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

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Body Work by Bruce. Noe Valley/Calistoga-based massage therapist now taking clients: specializing in deep tissue and therapeutic massage. Licensed. Has space/can come to you. 415-648-3651.

Free Consultation! Worn out? Sagging? Wrinkled? Try my complimentary, basic easy skin care. Your home or mine. Elsie, 415-550-7475.

Walkin Waggin Pet and Plant Care by Carla. Noe Valley resident 10 years. Love and attention for all pets: walks, play, and/or sitting. Health care, feeding, and hygiene. Services for all animals (fish, birds, and horses, too). Responsible, mature, fun, and smart. Animal caretaker/owner with lifetime experience. References! 415-648-3651.

Learn Spanish with us! Call WEEKEND en español! 415-923-0754.

Personalized Graphic Designs. Invitations, announcements, holiday cards, thank-you cards, personal stationery, advertisements, etc. Unique graphic designs at very reasonable rates. Beverly, 920-9627.

Carpentry — All Aspects. Local resident. Serving Noe Valley for 10 years plus. Remodel, add-ons, decks. Excellent references. Jeffrey, 753-1707.

Piano Lessons for children and adults. Beginning and intermediate levels. Classical music and theory instruction from a patient, experienced teacher in Noe Valley. Elva, 415-285-5769.

Housecleaner. Home and office. Experienced. Great references. Own car. Elli, 661-5941.

Noe's Nest. Located in the heart of Noe Valley, your home away from home. A number of uniquely decorated rooms with private bath, TV, VCR, CD players, telephone (free local calls), and voice mail. Some have private entrances; views; decks; working fireplaces; steam room; hot tub and aquariums. Let's not forget the Brooklyn Breakfast Buffet. Price range \$95 to \$160. Parents, children, and friends warmly welcomed. 415-821-0751.

Housecleaning available six days. Excellent references, a lot of experience. Please call me. Ana Paula, 415-643-4924.

Steady Once-a-Week Work Sought. Semi-retired proofreader (knowledge of French and Spanish); former legal secretary (WP 5.1); capable; reliable; seeks steady once-a-week work (proofreading, clerical or other) to supplement part-time job and small pension. Anne, 415-522-2980.

Flute Lessons. Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. Fifteen years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.



Word Processing (expertise: legal). Tape transcription, editing, mailings, repetitive letters, resumes, letter composition, complaint letters. Phone-indictation system. Dena Reiner, 415-821-4661.

Alexander Technique Lessons. The Alexander Technique is an educational method used by performing artists, individuals with back problems or poor posture, pregnant women, and those people interested in injecting more interest and awareness in daily life. A practical tool for everyday living. For information and lessons, contact Jerry Sontag at 434-2542. Certified since 1985.

The Writing Parlor. Creative writing classes in cozy setting with fabulous view, right here in Noe Valley (23rd and Grandview). Small, intimate classes of 6 to 12 people. Year-round sessions in fiction, poetry, journalism, personal essays & memoirs, journal-keeping, children's writing, and more. For specific days, times, cost, or more information on individual classes and instructors, call The Writing Parlor, 642-7875, or visit our website: www.thewriting-parlor.com.

Goals Coaching Works for: financial security, higher education, career advancement, lifestyle changes, entrepreneurs, right livelihood, balanced living, spiritual practices. Learn to align values with desires. Break through limiting blocks. Gain clarity and release creativity. Reasonable rates. Private sessions. Peer training for partners and groups. 415-695-9066.

Books — Books — Books Bought! I come to you. Call L.J. 469-9338 (46-year San Francisco resident).

CLAS ADS

Gardening. Consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. 626-1258.

Mohile Notary Public. Fluent Spanish. Evenings, weekends, and holidays. Jackie, 415-467-3467.

Photography. Portraits taken for groups or individuals of all ages. Public relations, parties, meetings, actor's headshots, etc. Jiro, 415-346-4295.

Save this Advertisement! David's Reliable Housecleaning. Call for appointment, 415-282-4047.

Meditation Workshop. A practical workshop that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$7. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Relocating? We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to set-up, we handle all the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

Upholstery. We repair, rebuild and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, sofas, and dining chairs. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.

Overwhelmed By Clutter, bills, closets? Professional organizing team to the rescue. We offer expert, simple solutions to what goes where. Desks, closets, relocations, garages, kitchens, filing systems, and more. Free phone consultation. Call ShipShape, 550-0658.



All Things Macintosh: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring, and more. References. Roslyn, (510) 526-1209.

Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Unique approach for holistic balance. Beginners Tuesday and Thursday, 6 p.m. \$5 introduction. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Friday morning, Douglass Park, 10 a.m. to noon, Douglass at 27th. Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

Expand Your Capacity to resolve life's challenges. Increase your ability to develop gratifying relationships through authenticity and clarity. I am a responsive, skilled, compassionate therapist committed to your growth. Ann Davidman, MFCC. 752-5392.

Body-Centered Counseling. Learn conscious tools for change. Identify and transform patterns or beliefs that are keeping you from your full potential. Individual, couples, or classes: Women's dream circle, Healing the Primal Wound, Tools for Transformation. Amy Cheney, 415-647-1492.

Handyman/Carpenter. Repair a door, hang a kitchen cabinet, remodel a closet, add a room, build a fence or a deck, or even trim a tree. I'm skilled and do good work at reasonable prices. Robert, 550-4055.

Health Insurance. Free quotes for individuals, families, and businesses — Blue Cross/Shield, alternative care, 'A'-rated plans, Medicare supplements, long-term care. Let an expert agent assist you at no extra cost! Call Bill Hannant, 647-7012.

Counseling: Start Your Healing Journey. Gentle, practical individual and couples therapy by experienced M.F.C.C. intern. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Armer, M.A., registered M.F.C.C. intern supervised and employed by Cate Potyten, M.F.C.C. Call 415-882-1161.

Kirtan/Chanting. Kirtan is chanting of spiritual mantras, sounds, songs, and names in the Sanskrit language. Accompanied by drums and other rhythm instruments, kirtan calms the nerves, purifies the emotions, heals the body, and opens the heart. Come join us for a joyful evening of chanting. Thursday, Nov. 5, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., by donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Motherhood/Fatherhood — Is It for Me? Are you considering parenting? Are you confused or ambivalent? Indecision can be immobilizing. Explore the many feelings associated with this decision in a safe and non-judgmental environment. Separate workshops for both women and men. Call for brochure/schedule. Denise Carlini, MFCC, 752-9165. Ann Davidman, MFCC, 752-5392.

Yoga and Healing. This drop-in hatha yoga class offers a caring environment for people dealing with chronic illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS, chronic fatigue, M.S., and cancer. Techniques such as deep relaxation, breathing practices, yoga postures, and meditation will be used. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and an empty stomach. Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$7 (\$4 for first class or needing assistance). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. (415) 821-1117.

Cleaninghouse. Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

Acupressure Massage for Your Health. Combining Jin Shin Do, Amma, and Shiatsu acupressure with Cranial-Sacral and Tui-Na for optimal healing and balance. Offering relief from headaches, sinus and lung congestion, low energy, stiffness and pain, emotional blocks, women's health issues, and more. Margaret Medeiros, C.M.T. with 10 years experience, 550-8940, Noe Valley office.

Pet Care. Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? A ride to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Ten years experience. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

Phil's Window Cleaning Service. Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 668-8310.

Stressless Housecleaning . . . because life's hectic enough. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

Guitar Lessons. Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244

Remodeling Services by Mystery Carpentry, license #731187. Home repairs and upgrades. General handyman work. Reasonable rates, good references. Call Dan, 242-9042.

Transform Your Jungle into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical, or popular repertoire. MIDI lab. Barbara Barnett, 648-1007.

Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Group in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age (40s to 60s), supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders in training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, LCSW. 641-4553.

Stereo Repair: Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening/weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 553-3751

Looking for a 14-Year-Experienced, reliable, bonded housecleaner? Stop your search! Call KJ now at 415-285-3014.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents or friends coming and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings, private patio. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church. Oliver House, 695-0700.

Liz's Unique Bed and Breakfast. Old world charm at affordable rates. Guests will awaken to the fragrance of homemade delicacies and fresh ground coffee. Call Liz, a gracious and knowledgeable hostess. 415-648-2515.

Need an Extra Bedroom/Bath for visiting relatives or friends? Rent ours. No frills. Low cost. 282-2550.

Just Plain Good Therapy. Brief counseling, crisis help, or in-depth work offered to individuals and couples of "all sexual persuasions" by well-aged, intuitive, perceptive, and highly skilled counselor who has seen, heard, and experienced a broad range of life's challenges. Upper Glen Park, easy parking. Jeanne Adleman, M.A. 585-0666.

Superlative Word Processing. Experienced professional. B.A. English, M.S.W. Understandable advice. Business, medical, academic, legal, resumes, manuscripts. Expert editing. Fax machine. Laser printing. Good rates. Call anytime. 824-7736.

Word Processing: Manuscripts, theses, dissertations, tape transcription, editing. Joanne, 431-0603.

Telephone wiring and jacks for your home or business; 37 years of experience. Call Gene, 826-8419.

How Do I Put a Class Ad in the Noe Valley Voice?

It's easy. You type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **30¢ a word**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount.

Mail your ad and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15th of the month** before the month you'd like to advertise in.

The address is Noe Valley Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Even if the ad is a renewal from a prior issue, please send us the full text of your ad. Also note that phone numbers, including area code, count as one word.

10 for 10 Discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* is a big one: the December 1998/January 1999 double issue. It will be distributed over two months, starting Dec. 2. **The deadline for December 1998/January 1999 Class Ads is Nov. 15.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. But there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site at no charge: www.noevalleyvoice.com

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. □

Rental Short-Term: Noe Valley view location; two guest suites with furnished living/bedroom areas, private baths, private phone lines, private entrances; shared kitchen/laundry; ideal for visiting family/friends, business travelers; weekly, monthly rates. 285-7189.

Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133; www.sirius.com/~scottstiffjane.html

Bed and Breakfast, quaint garden suite, spacious, front room, full kitchen, big bedroom and office area, laundry room, modern bathroom, ornamental gas fireplace, arched window view of garden with flowers, ground level, separate entrance, quiet, near 26th and Sanchez, close to shopping and transportation, privacy. Additional rooms available. Call 415-206-0202.

Tax Preparation for individuals, financial services for travelers and the distracted. Enrolled Agent licensed to represent clients before the IRS. Reasonable rates. \$10 discount with this ad. 415-695-1819. Gretchen Beck, E.A.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream/forest, fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream; \$250/two-night weekend, \$275/three-night weekend, \$75/night mid-week with two-night minimum; \$500/week; \$1,500/month. Ten percent discount to all repeat guests. 647-3052.

Depth Psychotherapy. Heal old wounds, past trauma and abuse. Explore and work through stuck places, fears and anxiety that keep you from having the relationships and life that you want. Peggy Handler, MFCC #32077. 695-0166.

Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript (typed, please), plus name, address, and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

❖ JINGLE BLUES? ❖

'Tis the season often filled with loneliness, depression, family difficulties, year-end regrets... and resolutions to make changes.

Psychotherapy...

a safe, supportive space to explore old issues and new paths for the New Year.



Celia Rosebury Lighthill, M.A.

MFCC Lic. #27325

23rd near Church

(415) 239-1315

Affordable sliding scale

gift is a gift of love

*A handcrafted
A Holiday Boutique*

Friday, Nov. 6
7 pm – 9 pm

Saturday, Nov. 7
10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, Nov. 8
11 am – 4 pm

Miraloma Improvement Club
350 O'Shaughnessy at Del Vale, S.F.

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Hot Flashes From the NVBI

By Mazook

DATELINE NOE VALLEY: Nov. 1, 1998. The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has determined through its vast network of spies that the impeachment proceedings in Washington, D.C., pose a serious threat to the security and well-being of the men, women, children, and other citizens of our neighborhood, city, state, and country. Noe Valleons must therefore unite to stop it.

The NVBI's political intelligence has revealed that the only way to avert a constitutional crisis is for every registered voter to actually vote. If that happens, the citizens of our great nation will throw all those glass-house-living, stone-throwing, privacy-invading Republican rascals out of Congress, and then move on with the things that really matter, like Health, Education, and Public Welfare.

To further this end, the NVBI is making an urgent plea to the nearly 7,000 Noe Valleons who voted in the June election to get the other 8,000 registered Noe Valley voters to *VOTE NOV. 3*, and then go home and call at least five registered voters they know anywhere else in the United States and urge them to *VOTE, VOTE, VOTE*. Is that clear?

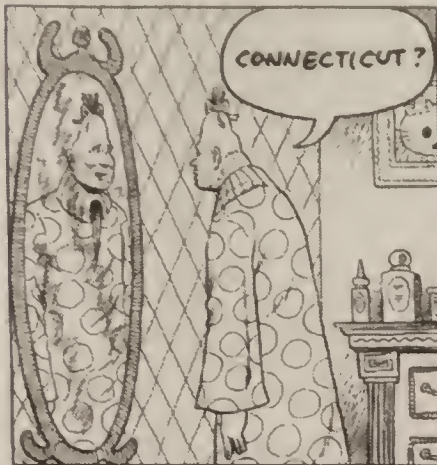
☎ ☎ ☎

NOE VALLEY HAS LOST two famous cartoonists to "three acres and a pond in East Haddam, Connecticut," says Bill Griffith and his wife Diane Noomin, who left in mid-October.

Bill is famous for his pointy-headed cartoon character (and my *Voice* page-mate) Zippy. Diane is best known for her "Twisted Sisters" collections of strips.

"We are not happy to leave Noe Valley, but we both needed a change at this time," explains Griffy. He originally moved to the Bay Area from New York in 1970.

Also, he and Diane "were able to sell



Copyright 1998 Bill Griffith

Zippy the Pinhead may not fit in as well in Connecticut as he did in Noe Valley (his creator, cartoonist Bill Griffith, moved there last month), but he should be able to locate a steady supply of Ho-Ho's.

our Noe Valley house for four times what we paid for it 16 years ago, which got us the three acres and a pond—actually it's a pool—in a great place on the East Coast. I'm very thankful to every double-seated stroller on 24th Street and all those Starbucks aficionados" for pushing up the property values.

"We have moved to a community that has been here since the late 1600s, so it is pretty old...like, Nathan Hale was born

here in 1755," says Bill. (Hale was a spy for the American Revolution, by the way.)

He says he feels lucky that his artistic vocation allows him to move anywhere. "Yeah, my career is basically contained in a 15- by 20-inch portfolio, and being near a post office."

Zippy, you may already know, is all set to star in his own animated TV series, being launched on Showtime next fall. Diane is the key writer for the series, but will get some help from a couple of *Seinfeld* scriptwriters.

"We are excited about it because there is no censorship on Showtime," says Diane, licking her chops. Diane's comics are still readily available at the Virgin Megastore at Market and Powell downtown.

And don't worry about Zippy leaving the *Voice*. Bill assures us that even though he and Diane have split town, Zippy will continue to wander dazed through our cafe culture, and record his observations in regular strips on these pages.

Oh, and if you want to write the Zipsters, their new address is Pinhead Productions, P.O. Box 88, Hadlyme, CT 06439. Bill and Diane's newfound friend Andrea runs the post office there. (E-mailers, try zipglitz@ix.netcom.com.)

We'll miss you, Bill and Diane. Send us a postcard. Better yet, send us a snapshot, with you guys reading the *Voice*.

☎ ☎ ☎

SPEAKING OF E-MAIL, the *Voice* got one recently from somebody named "Willookatt," regarding last month's Rumors item about Eddie DeBartolo Jr.'s signing a check for \$860K to buy his daughter a house in Noe Valley for her 21st birthday.

According to Willookatt's message, the money was "her check not his, it wasn't a birthday gift, and—hello???—she is 23 years old!"

Attempts to reach Eddie Junior's junior for confirmation have failed. She didn't return calls left on her voice mail. But anyway I apologize for the mistake(s).

One thousand apologies also to Sam Sirhed, who is rebuilding the storefront where Suzie's Laundry was on 24th near Church. I erroneously reported last month that the new structure would have five residential units. In reality, it will have only two! Sorry for my inflated remarks.

☎ ☎ ☎

OF INTEREST to all the chain store watchers out there is that a local bagelry has very quietly downsized from a chain outlet to an owner-run shop. That would be Posh Bagel, which became Noe Bagels

over the summer.

The new owner, Billy Lim, says he took over the business but will continue to bake and serve a posh line of bagels. "I didn't want to change anything because these bagels are so popular in this neighborhood," he says. (Posh still operates 10 stores in the South Bay.)

Billy comes from a family of bakers ("we are seven kids altogether") who operate five bagelries — called Benjamin Bagels — in Pleasanton, and 15 "Donut Baskets" around the Bay Area.

You might also be interested to know that the corner building at Church and 27th streets, where Lady Sybil's used to be, has been purchased by Teresa and Dan Donnelly, who own and operate the Danu hair salon next door.

The Donnellys are starting a much-needed renovation of the storefront, which will soon be rented to someone whom they promised they wouldn't reveal right now.

Teresa, who was born and raised in Noe Valley, opened her hair salon about a year ago. "We are doing great here," she says.

She also says not to worry about a chain moving into the Lady Sybil's space. "The neighbors will like what's going in there if everything works out."

☎ ☎ ☎

MEANWHILE, BACK ON 24TH STREET: It's also a mystery who or what will fill Global Exchange's old spot on 24th near the corner of Sanchez. The premises are being remodeled and somewhat enlarged (along with the adjoining Rose Quartz), from a garage-sized space to a standard storefront. Then the prime location will be let to rent.

Gone in the remodel will be the old ice machine door, which served so many thirsty Noe Valleons for so long. It broke about eight years ago and has since been turned into a planter.

The remodeling mayhem at Bell Market should be ending soon, says store manager Gary Grossetti. Bell is planning a special ceremony on Nov. 4, to celebrate completion of the project.

Grossetti says the supermarket has expanded its frozen food section and enlarged the produce section to include greater stocks of organic food. The store is also opening its own bakery, where the wine and spirits used to be. (They're now at the back of the store.)

Meanwhile, the remodeling ruckus at Rite-Aid a block up the street is continuing through November. "My best estimate

Continued on Next Page

ASSEMBLYWOMAN CAROLE MIGDEN

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1997-98

HEALTH

- Safe hypodermic needles to protect health care workers

CHILDREN

- Tobacco advertising prohibited near schools.
- Funding to train more childcare workers.

ENVIRONMENT

- \$240 million to purchase and protect Headwaters Forest and other endangered forests.

PARKS & THE ARTS

- Asian Art Museum, \$5 million for renovation and earthquake safety.
- Conservatory of Flowers, \$2 million for repairs and earthquake safety.



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Do you have a new (pre)reader in the house?
We'd love to feature her or him in our More Mouths to Feed column. Just drop us a line and we'll spring to action.

The Noe Valley Voice - 1021 Sanchez St. - San Francisco - 94114

Photo by Pamela Gerard

RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

[to finish up] is Thanksgiving," says manager Tom Bernier.

We will be thankful when all the neighborhood remodeling jobs are completed, so we can take off our face masks and earplugs.



NOE VALLEY MUSICIAN Rhan Wilson has just released a CD titled *An Altered Christmas* containing nine tracks of classic holiday tunes and carols, "recast in minor keys and alternative atmospheres." The *Voice* got a preview copy, and believe me, this disc has a great sound.

Rhan, best-known for his percussion work with the bands THOTH and Haunted by Waters, wrote (and sings) many of the altered melodies on the album. But he's joined by San Francisco violinist S. K. Thoth (whom many of you may have seen playing outside Martha's Coffee in his short skirts or tutu), actor Kelvin Han Yee, vocalist Janet Roitz, percussionist/vocalist Mark Edwards, and Cassie, a 3-week-old baby who does a "wailing solo." Also contributing to the mix are singer Cyoakha and flautist Melo, both from Portland; about a dozen musicians from Santa Cruz (from whence Rhan came about five years ago); and Rhan's two dogs, Lucky and Liesl.

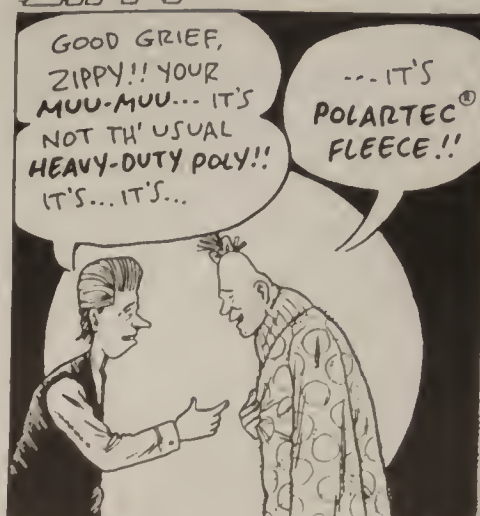
Other than the kooky arrangements, what's different about this CD is that all the vocalists and musicians donated their time and talent, and half of the albums' profits will go to AIDS services in San Francisco and Santa Cruz.

An Altered Christmas is available locally at the One Stop Party Shop at Church and 28th streets, and will soon be stocked at Streetlight Records on 24th Street. You can also buy it (and hear song samples) at www.altered.com.

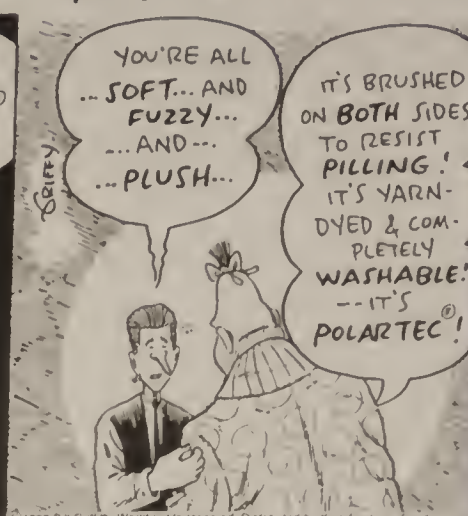
You may have seen Rhan on Halloween night in front of his Randall Street house, where he gave a spooky concert for his neighbors. "This is the fifth year I have given the Halloween concert, each year with a different theme. This year it's a tribal jungle theme."

Another local singer/songwriter who has just put out a CD, called *No Curses Here*, is 22-year-old Noe Venable. Noe has the distinction of being named for Noe Valley. "Actually, I was born and raised and still live in Eureka Valley, and

ZIPPY



"POLARIZED"



BILL GRIFFIN



my parents thought [the whole area was] so beautiful they wanted to give a part of it to me," she says.

Noe's new release is available only in Europe right now, but it's scheduled to debut in the U.S. next March. It was recorded on Sanchez Street right here in Noe Valley at Mobius Studio.

Meantime, you can hear her sing live at the San Francisco Song Cycle, presented by the Noe Valley Music Series at the Ministry on Saturday, Nov. 7. (The show starts at 8:15 p.m.) Noe will perform along with vocal duo Jeff Pehrson and Jim Brunberg, Irish minstrel David Hopkins, and jazz trumpeter Jon Birdsong & Friends. Wow, what a lineup!

Rumors readers (and everyone else) are invited to the pre-concert reception starting at 7:30 p.m. at 1021 Sanchez St. Advance tickets are advisable. Get 'em at Streetlight Records.

Noe tells me she is trying to arrange to have a limited number of her CDs available at the Noe Valley concert, so if you want one, don't tell anyone else, okay?



YOU CAN LOOK FOR ELECTION results right here next month. But only if you do your duty and vote Nov. 3. And march five other people to the polls with you. The NVBI's goal is a 90 percent voter turnout in Noe.

Oh and before I go: How bout them Yankees!

I'm outta here. Bye, kids. □



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A Very Important Cat

◆ BY LAUREN SCHIFFMAN ◆

One day last summer my roommate Lisa was horrified to see two mice by the stove. I think mice are kinda cute, so it didn't seem like a big deal to me. But her room was next to the kitchen, and she wanted all mice out!

Lisa's friend Bonnie had a cat named "V.I.C." (for Very Important Cat), also known as Vic. Bonnie told us that Vic often brought her little "presents" of mice from the garden, so Lisa asked if we could borrow her star mouser.

At first, Vic was scared to leave her carrier, but we finally enticed her out with some tuna. Then she took to the apartment in a flash: peeking through potted plants and kneading couch cushions.

Vic spent the first day following the sun's migration east to west through our living room. She lay in the shafts of light, flicking the black tip of her tail. Day two was a repeat of the first. The cat's big blue eyes blinked lazily into sleep as she snoozed in the afternoon sun. Vic didn't seem particularly concerned with running after small rodents, or anything else for that matter. However, it was nice having Vic padding around the house in her elegant tortoise-shell coat. She slept underneath the desk and kept my feet warm while I worked.

When Bonnie called that night to see how things were going, Lisa asked if we could keep Vic a little longer. There were no signs of the mice so far, but we hadn't lost hope. Bonnie said her schedule was crazy until Saturday anyway, so she'd pick up the cat in three days.

The next day was unseasonably warm for June in San Francisco. When I got home from running errands, I called to Vic. There were no meows from behind the couch, from the litterbox in the bathroom, or the fleece jacket that had fallen on the floor, which Vic had adopted as a bed.

I looked in every room... and then I spotted it: The window next to Lisa's bed was open.

I poked my head outside. There was a ledge below leading to our deck. I ran out to the porch and called, "Psss, psss. Here, girl." I grabbed Vic's canister of cat treats and took it out to the deck. The rattle of that can always brought her running. Nothing. My calls became shriller, "Vic! Here, kitty kitty!" All I could do was hope that Vic was hiding somewhere in the house and being uncharacteristically quiet.

The first thing I asked Lisa when she got home from work was if she had taken Vic somewhere.

"No," she said, "she was in my room when I left this morning."

I spoke quietly, "I hate to break this to you, but I can't find Vic anywhere. And I noticed when I came home that your window was open."

"Oh, my God," she gasped. "I can't believe it! I didn't even think about that!"

Without another word, we both went on the rounds again. We looked under the beds, up the chimney, in the kitchen cupboards. The cat was gone. I asked Lisa if she was going to call Bonnie and tell her the news.

She shook her head. "Let's give it one more day. I'm sure Vic will show up tomorrow." The unnatural falsetto she used to give us hope made me even more depressed.

When Lisa got home the next night, I simply stated, "No Vic."

She nodded and went into her room. I didn't see her for the rest of the evening and figured she'd called Bonnie and told her what had happened.

When I was sipping my coffee the next morning, the doorbell rang. It was Bonnie. I opened the door and said, "Bonnie, I'm so sorry about what happened."

Her smile faded. "What are you talking about?"

"You didn't speak to Lisa last night?" I asked.

"No, why? Is something wrong with Vic?" Her eyes widened in panic.

I couldn't believe I had to tell this woman I barely knew that the cat she'd had for eight years had escaped out our window. Lisa had already left for the weekend to celebrate her niece's birthday down in San Jose, but I knew the truth couldn't be avoided any longer. I took a deep breath and told Bonnie the whole story. Bonnie was incredulous. "This happened on Thursday, and no one thought to call and tell me?"

"I'm so sorry," I said. "I thought Lisa already told you. She tried to reach you last night."

"I was home all night, and I didn't get any calls." Her eyes started shining with tears. "It would've been so much easier to track her down when she first disappeared. Do you mind if I come in and try to call Vic from the porch? If she's nearby, she'll come when she hears my voice."

We went up to the deck and called to the cat, but there was no reply. Bonnie went home to make posters with Vic's picture to pass out around the

neighborhood. We spent all afternoon stapling posters to telephone poles and slipping them into mail slots. Everyone was very supportive, but no one had seen Vic.

Soon after Lisa left for work on Monday morning, there was a knock at the door. It was Bonnie with a woman who was swathed in layers of flowing blue and green gauze. Her red hair was in a braid halfway down her back, and she wore piles of silver bangles on each wrist that clanked as she came up the stairs. Bonnie introduced her friend: "This is Crystal. She's a pet psychic. Would you mind if we looked around the house for a while, so Crystal can get a feel for the location?"

For a few seconds, I just stood there smiling. I was trying hard not to burst out laughing, so I pressed my lips together. The two looked at me expectantly. Finally I composed myself enough to squeeze out, "Go right ahead."

◆ ◆ ◆
I spoke quietly, "I hate to break this to you, but I can't find Vic anywhere. And I noticed when I came home that your window was open."
"Oh, my God," she gasped, "I can't believe it! I didn't even think about that!" Without another word, we both went on the rounds again. We looked under the beds, up the chimney, in the kitchen cupboards. The cat was gone.

As I took them on a tour of the house, Crystal asked me a lot of questions about where Vic slept, when she ate, what she played with, and so on. The tour ended in the kitchen, where Vic's bowls were still waiting hopefully. Crystal asked me about Vic's relationship with the kitchen window. I told her that Vic enjoyed sitting in front of that window, which looked out over the neighbors' gardens. The roses, lemon trees, and wildflowers were all in bloom. "I'm getting something," Crystal murmured with closed eyes and upheld palms. "Vic loved those gardens. She wanted to be out there in the sun with the birds and insects."

Crystal opened her eyes and looked at me. "Can you get to these gardens from the window she climbed out of?"

"I think so," I replied. "Those gardens are right behind the wall of our porch."

We all raced out to the deck. Crystal began speaking faster. "Oh, yes. She could've easily climbed over that wall. Bonnie, I'm getting a strong feeling that Vic is safe and she's very close. Call to her."

Bonnie hollered Vic's name over and over. After five minutes, Crystal put her hand on Bonnie's shoulder. "It's all right. Vic is safe. She's lost some weight, but she's doing fine. She's under a nearby tree. It seems dark where I see her. Let's go talk to the neighbors whose gardens border this house."

I worked hard to keep the grin frozen on my face as I let the two women out. All I could think was poor, sweet Bonnie. By the way her face had lit up, I could tell how hopeful Crystal's psychic prediction had made her.

I wasn't very hopeful for Vic's return. She had been roaming in unfamiliar territory for days. At this point, I thought our best hope was that some nice person had found the cat and was taking care of her.

Lisa called Bonnie that night, but Bonnie wouldn't speak to her except to say that she'd searched the neighbors' gardens again with no result.

"I feel awful about this," Lisa told me after she hung up the phone. "I wish I could do something to help. Bonnie won't even talk to me, and I don't blame her. I'm gonna get some air."

A few minutes later Lisa came running up the stairs shouting, "You'll never believe this!"

I came out of the kitchen and there was Lisa, holding a bedraggled Vic. The cat looked skinny and was shaking with cold, but she was safe! My jaw fell open. "Where did you find her?"

"It was so weird," Lisa gasped breathlessly. "I was standing in the garden, and I heard meowing from behind the tree, and she was just calmly sitting there." Vic sneezed and Lisa held her tighter. "Bonnie will be so happy. She hasn't seen Vic in almost two weeks."

"I've been in that garden every day, and there were no signs of Vic," I said. "I can't believe she found her way back after all this time. Maybe the pet psychic really did have a vision...."

Lisa was already on the phone. "Bonnie, there's someone here who's very anxious to see you!"

She put the receiver to the cat's mouth, and Vic let out a plaintive "Meecoooooww!" ◆

Lauren Schiffman is a transplant from the East Coast who's lived in Noe Valley for three years. She is currently working on her MFA in poetry at San Francisco State University.



Lace, flowers, and marble make a pretty doorway on 23rd Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

WRITERS

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for possible publication on the Last Page. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. We look forward to hearing from you.